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Election 2008

Tory support slipping, poll shows

SURVEY Support for the Conservatives appears to be echoing the downward spiral of world financial markets.The latest poll by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima put Tory support at a new low — 32 per cent. However, that's still seven points ahead of the Liberals, who crept up to 25 per cent. With just seven days until voting day on Oct. 14, the NDP was at 21 per cent and the Greens at 12. The Bloc Québécois had 8 per cent nationally and was leading comfortably in Quebec. The rolling poll sample represents 1,235 interviews conducted Thursday through Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Election 2008 pg 7

- National Report by Lawrence Martin
- The point of polls
- Dion sticking to green message

Your Money pg 11

Build your dream team

Health page 18

Model's road to butting out

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

In their shoes **CAW workers send layoff message**

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Work boots are piled up yesterday in front of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's campaign office in his riding of Whitby-Oshawa. Hundreds of Canadian Auto Worker union members gathered to present Flaherty with work boots collected from laid-off workers from across the province.

TSX stocks plunge amid global panic

Panicking investors pushed stocks to another gut-wrenching drop in Toronto and around the world yesterday as fears about a global recession intensified amid the spreading financial crisis.

Toronto's main stock index staged its biggest intraday points drop ever — nearly 1,200 points — before rallying back in the afternoon to close down about 573 points or 5.3 per cent. At the day's lows the drop of about 11 per cent was second only to the "Black Monday" crash of Oct. 17, 1987.

Toronto's S&P/TSX Composite Index is down some 32 per cent since hitting its all-time peak June 18, less than four months ago.

The day began badly yesterday in Europe where stocks posted their worst day on record after two big European banks were rescued and several European governments guaranteed bank deposits in emergency moves.

In New York, the Dow slipped below 10,000 points for the first time since October 2004.

"Trying to do an economic forecast in this kind of turmoil is like trying to put a value on your home while the kitchen is on fire."
BMO economist Douglas Porter

At a gathering of top bank economists in Toronto yesterday the assessment of Canada's economic situation was generally gloomy, although several speakers insisted there is still a chance Canada will avoid a recession. "Trying to do an economic forecast in this kind of turmoil is like trying to put a value on your home while the kitchen is on fire," said Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist for BMO Capital Market.

On the campaign trail in Canada, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper said the government was watching events "very carefully."

"I remain fundamentally optimistic about the Canadian economy," Harper said. "We aren't in a recession."

Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said yesterday Ontarians should brace for a provincial budget deficit because of the global finance crisis.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PG. 10

Internet never forgets

Election 2008

The young man waiting to enlist in the Canadian Forces at the recruitment centre in North York was eager to answer questions about why he wanted to serve Canada in uniform, putting his life at risk, but there was one risk he would not take: He would not release his name.

He wants to become a politician. He doesn't want his words coming back to haunt him. He cheerfully explained that he was equally cautious about the Internet.

The digital age has given words a currency they once lacked. Comments that once would have languished in newspaper archives or libraries can be dug up in a second by Google.

As Durham NDP candidate Andrew McKeever has learned, online comments are forever. He finally resigned on Friday.

He is one of more than half a dozen candidates in this federal election who have been forced to resign as a result of dubious remarks made online.

"All of us make mistakes and say things that we probably regret," says Warren Kinsella, author of The War Room: Political Strategies for Business, NGO's and Anyone Who Wants to Win. "The difference for politicians, of course, is they're saying it in an environment where an awful lot of people are paying attention."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In T.O.

- Toronto Centre Conservative candidate Chris Reid dropped out after controversial comments on his blog were made public.

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Officers east of the city sport new headgear
Starting at 7 a.m. yesterday, Durham Region police on duty donned new ballcaps with the slogan "10-33" (radio code for "officer needs assistance") on the front, after contract talks broke down over the weekend. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Master drummer denied visa

A Ghanian master drummer and university lecturer invited through a Canada Council grant to teach at York University and to perform has been refused a visitor's visa. Larry Graves, a York lecturer whose band Mr. Something Something has been nominated for a Juno Award, won the $3,000 arts grant to create a month of programming around Francis Kofi Akotuah, 31, left, who has taught at the University of Ghana, Legon, for 11 years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

AutoMotive

Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch as the parties look to capitalize on economic woes at metronews.ca/canada
Read investment adviser Allan Small as he explains the basics of the U.S. bailout plan at metronews.ca/live

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3	0 3 4
Ontario Pick 4	6 7 6 5
Encore	3346343
Daily Keno	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 40, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 53, 57, 62, 65, 66, 69.

These results are not official.

News in brief

VANDALS There have been six more reports of vandalism, including cutting of brake lines and graffiti on houses, in the St. Paul's and Parkdale-High Park ridings. The victims all appear to be Liberal supporters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top 20 Guide to dance show

CTV PHOTO

Metro Canada Publisher Bill McDonald poses with So You Think You Can Dance Canada show host Leah Miller yesterday. Metro newspapers across Canada will publish a Top 20 Guide to CTV's hit show in tomorrow's newspapers.

Accused bandit puzzles police

Kevin John Pinto does not look the part of a prolific holdup artist.

Bug-eyed behind rimless spectacles, head shaved, the 37-year-old investment firm vice-president appeared passive and tidy in bail court yesterday despite having spent three nights in jail. His full-time residential address is a condo on the waterfront.

It was Pinto's second court appearance since he walked into 52 Division with a lawyer on Friday, surrendering to police. Pinto — formally "suspended" yesterday from his financial district job — has been charged with 10 counts of robbery.

"We're as bamboozled as anyone else."
Det. Const. Al Phillips

"We're as bamboozled as anyone else," says Det.-Const. Al Phillips, one of the investigators involved with the case. "The last thing you expect in a bank robber is somebody from that community who works in banking."

Pinto has no criminal record. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Riding: Mississauga-Streetsville

Election 2008

Current MP for Mississauga-Streetsville, Wajid Khan, didn't make many friends when he decided to cross the floor in 2007 from the Liberal to the Conservative caucus. According to his Liberal opponent in the upcoming election, Bonnie Crombie, he lost voter confidence with the move.

Khan says he understands why some of his constituents were upset by the change but says he had to cross over because Stéphane Dion challenged him to stop serving his country or leave the party. Khan was serving as Middle East adviser to Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the time and he says Dion wasn't happy with the situation. Eventually, he says, he had to choose his party or his country and he chose Canada.

The riding covers 46 square kilometres with a population of 130,033; about 85,000 of those are eligible to vote.

ROBYN YOUNG/FOR METRO TORONTO

Wajid Khan — Conservative
AGE: 62
PARTY: Conservative
POSITION: MP for Mississauga-Streetsville; former businessman and former fighter pilot for the Pakistan air force

"People realize that the Liberal party goes to work half the time, and when they do go to work they sit on their hands for 43 important votes — and what can you deliver with that kind of a party? I think they realize the party has moved away from Canadians, and as a Conservative I've been able to deliver significant benefits, not just to my constituents, but to Mississauga as a whole."

Bonnie Crombie — Liberal
AGE: 48
PARTY: Liberal
POSITION: Management consultant

"The economy is the most important, pressing issue … people are worried about their savings, their investments, their jobs and how they're going to pay their rent. When Liberals were the government, we were sound fiscal managers, we balanced the books, it took us four years to bail out of the $43-billion deficit that Brian Mulroney had left us and we ran eight consecutive balanced budgets."

Viktor Spanovic
AGE: Unknown
PARTY: Independent
POSITION: Unknown

Keith Pinto — NDP
AGE: 27
PARTY: NDP
POSITION: Graduate student

"Mississauga-Streetsville has a lot of young families and … most of these young families require both parents to work to pay the bills and they need affordable day care. I would support Jack Layton's goal of affordable day-care spaces."

Otto Casanova — green
AGE: 38
PARTY: Green
POSITION: International export business manager

"We're not just about the environment. People understand that we have an aggressive policy to tackle the climate crisis while at the same time ensuring that Canada shifts toward a low carbon economy. The Green Shift from the Liberals is actually a policy that was taken from our platform and we support it partially, but at the same time it is pretty much watered down."

Ralph Bonag
AGE: 73
PARTY: Independent
POSITION: Lawyer and paralegal

"The poverty in the province is racing and I believe it's one of the most important subjects that should be discussed among candidates. As an independent candidate, I think most especially when there is a minority government, independent MPs have a big voice in sitting and passing legislation."

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polytechnic

Cops seek bar shooting suspect

Police are looking for a man who shot another bar patron in both legs in Mississauga at about 2:30 a.m. yesterday. The victim was shot after approaching a man playing pool at the Time Out Bar, on Brandon Gate Drive, near Finch Avenue and Highway 427, police said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Don't expect new pledges from Tories

InTransit

Ed Drass
transit@eddrass.com

Election 2008

If you were waiting to find out what the federal Tories have in mind for transit and infrastructure, don't expect anything that wasn't announced before the election started. Although the full Conservative platform is set to be unveiled today, it likely will not include new promises toward Canada's "infrastructure deficit."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government has signed deals with the provinces under its $33 billion "Building Canada" fund, which is to be delivered from 2007 to 2014.

Tory finance minister and Whitby-Oshawa incumbent MP Jim Flaherty tells In Transit, "We've already made our infrastructure commitments to TTC and the transit authorities, and we have our framework agreement and our FLOW agreement with the Government of Ontario."

The one billion-dollar joint FLOW program will pay for extending the Spadina subway to Vaughan plus money for Mississauga Transit, Brampton Transit, VIVA in York Region, Durham Transit as well as expansions of Highways 404, 407 and 7.

Would a new Conservative government in Ottawa help fund the recently unveiled Metrolinx draft Regional Transportation Plan? Flaherty says, "This has to be worked out between the levels of government co-operatively. It isn't up to one level of government to say, 'Here's a shopping list of 50 billion or 100 billion dollars … and here's what you get to pay.' That isn't the way it works."

Committed

- Asked what difference money previously committed by the Tories will make over the next few years, Flaherty says GTA commuters should notice new subway cars and TTC buses, plus expansions to GO Transit including 12-car trains, and a new rail link between Toronto and Peterborough.

Quick-Tip

Q: What's with the new platform numbers at Union Station?
Tip: Officials say the numbers, changed over the past weekend in the Union rail and bus stations, are simpler and follow standards used elsewhere in the world. Thankfully most trains will leave from the same locations as people are used to, with just the platform numbers being new.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA.

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Young entrepreneur receives honour

Former world curling champion Colin Davidson and Stealth Acoustical & Emission Control, a business he started in his parents' basement, has garnered recognition by the Canadian Youth Business Foundation. METRO CANADA

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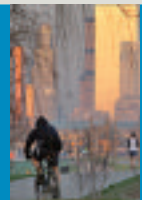

Air quality affects appendixes

University of Calgary researchers are suggesting that high air pollution levels may increase the risk of appendicitis, a condition that requires one-in-12 Canadians to undergo an appendectomy each year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada gets failing grade

Too many kids below poverty line, not enough action: Report

Child poverty in Canada is not being fought hard enough, as it is virtually at the same level as it was in 1989, according to a quality-of-life report card being released today by an organization representing community foundations across the country.

"We have not moved fast enough anywhere in any part of the country to eliminate child poverty," said Monica Patten, president and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada.

The report states that in 2006 there were 1.6 million children, or 23 per cent of Canadian kids, living in poverty.

"That level of child poverty has virtually not changed in about 20 years — we just have not been able to move the needle on child poverty," said Patten.

"That's in spite of resolutions both at government levels and in communities to overcome that incredible challenge for us."

The highest child poverty rates among the 15 communities profiled in the report were found in Toronto and Vancouver, and the lowest were in Calgary and Oakville, Ont.

The release of the report entitled Vital Signs 2008 was not planned to coincide with the current federal election campaign, Patten said.

"Clearly the numbers speak for themselves," said Patten.

"The figures show that as a country, we are not making enough progress on poverty."

In addition to its findings on child poverty, the report card said:

• The median income of non-immigrant Canadian families increased by over five per cent from 2000 to 2005, but the incomes of immigrant families fell by one per cent.

•Only 22 per cent of Canadians hadn't finished high school in 2007, down from almost 38 per cent in 1990.

•About 41 per cent of Canadian adults said they went to a live arts performance in 2005, up from 38 per cent in 1998.

"Clearly the numbers speak for themselves."
Monica Patten

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gordon Bates, left, and Alan Libman, the lawyers for Vincent Li, accused of beheading a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in southern Manitoba, speak to media after a hearing yesterday.

Mental health focus of beheading hearing

A man accused of beheading a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in southern Manitoba this summer has told his lawyers he understands the situation and is willing to go to trial.

Vincent Li was charged with second-degree murder after the brutal death of Tim McLean, 22.

"He is fit to stand trial," defence lawyer Gordon Bates said yesterday outside court in Portage la Prairie, Man. "There is enough evidence to put him on trial for that charge."

The trial will hinge primarily on whether experts think Li was criminally responsible for his actions, defence lawyer Alan Libman said.

"That's really the sole issue in this case," he said. "If someone commits an offence while suffering a disease of the mind and they don't know their actions are wrong, they can't be held criminally responsible."

Li was not in court yesterday and his lawyers said he should not be expected to appear until his trial begins. They added that he is co-operating with doctors and consenting to treatment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police arrest man in abduction case

INVESTIGATION Police charged a 44-year-old Edmonton man yesterday with kidnapping and sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl who had been the subject of an Amber Alert the day before. Daniel Todd Gratton was arrested and charged with sexual interference and administering a noxious substance. The girl was found with a $10 bill and a note that said she needed to go home to Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watch a report on the recent abduction in Edmonton at metronews.ca/canada

Inspectors sound listeria alert

Deadly food outbreaks like the Maple Leaf listeria tragedy will likely repeat in Canada if rules aren't tightened, federal food inspectors warned yesterday.

The strongly worded caution came on the heels of a Toronto Star/CBC report that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency had quietly dropped its requirement that food producers must report positive bacterial tests to government inspectors.

The requirement was dropped last April — four months later, people began dying from listeriosis linked to Maple Leaf's Toronto plant.

"Food inspectors should be notified when test results for listeria and other bacteria in meat processing plants are positive," said Bob Kingston, president of the Agriculture Union, which represents federal food inspectors.

"This requirement — which was cancelled by CFIA — should be restored immediately, and CFIA should invest the resources to ensure inspectors monitor cleanups after positive tests."

"If there are any shortfalls in the system, we will correct them," Tom Graham, the agency's national inspection manager, said on the weekend.

A spokesperson for Maple Leaf said yesterday that the company is only required to report positive listeria tests on samples of the meat itself.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Meat policy

• Under the current rules, food-processing companies don't have to report positive tests to inspectors but inspectors are allowed to look at test records.

News in brief

RULING The B.C. Appeal Court has ordered a third trial for a woman twice convicted in the shooting death of her estranged husband. Darlene Young is accused of shooting Frederick James Payton in 2002. According to the ruling yesterday, Young told the court that she shot her husband after he said he was going to kill her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airfares

Orlando	Travel Oct 24 - Oct 31/ts	**$89** + taxes & fees $133
Puerto Plata	Travel Nov 10 - 17, Dec 1 - 8/wg	**$125** + taxes & fees $298
Vancouver	Travel Oct 21 - Oct 27,28,29/wg	**$139** + taxes & fees $205
New York City	Travel Nov 7 - Nov 12/pd	**$158** + taxes & fees $106
Las Vegas	Travel Jan 11,12 - Jan 15,16/wg	**$199** + taxes & fees $212
London	Travel Nov 19 - Dec 1/ts	**$199** + taxes & fees $448
St Lucia	Travel Dec 8 - Dec 15/wg	**$325** + taxes & fees $207

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Allegro Papagayo + taxes & fees $243
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Which is the sexiest party?
Attempting to showcase the sexiness of the Canadian body politic, SexiestParty.ca lets supporters of the five major political parties compete with one another for the title of Sexiest Party of Canada. Individuals can upload their photos, which will be judged by the web-based masses. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Harper caught tinkering

There's worry in the Conservative camp as support numbers dwindle

National**Report**

It was supposed to be a coronation. Harpo the Incrementalist in a walk. A storyline that most everyone in the media ran to on the campaign's opening weekend. The Conservatives were at 40 per cent — and eating steak. The others? Kraft cheese slices.

But complacency is a dangerous commodity in politics. Preaching the status quo, as the Conservatives have done, works OK — so long as tumult doesn't hit.

But Wall Street went under and this country is feeling the thunder — check those crashing TSX numbers — and our prime minister, the Great Tinkerer as someone labelled him, was caught tinkering. No plan! One wasn't necessary, he said. Land is strong.

But even Stéphane Dion had a five-point plan for the economy. No great shakes, but something! And Jack Layton and Elizabeth May jumped in, making the point that not only was there no economic plan, but not even a Conservative campaign platform. And how presumptuous, how arrogant, said they, is that!

Then a rare thing happened. Stephen Harper relented. A platform is coming today. It may be the latest point ever that a platform has been released in an election. But there is worry in the Conservative camp. They're still leading. But the party numbers and the prime minister's personal numbers have both dropped significantly since the opening gun. There's a good chance they can win back the momentum this week. But if they don't, they'll lose seats in this election — and Harper, who appeared headed for a majority only a week or two ago, will be ushered out as Tory leader.

While the media focus has been on the problems plaguing Dion, Harper's setbacks accumulated. Lots of mistakes by his underlings, the troubling plagiarism charge that linked him strongly to the Iraq war, listeriosis jokes, the insults about people who go to galas, no big new promises, no vision. Then he got a terribly unlucky break when the American economy tumbled. Then he John-McCained himself by saying all was well. Don't worry, be happy.

And so now, what seemed nutty to contemplate a few days ago — a Liberal victory — is not so nutty anymore. The much-mocked Dion inches forward. Breaks finally come his way. While he wants change, the other team is stuck in the status quo. The status quo didn't look so bad a month ago. Now it is starting to remind people of 1930.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Numbers

What's the role of polls in elections?

VIEWS Ask a pollster, an academic and two political organizers whether polls drive voter preference or if voter preference drives the polls and you invariably arrive at conflicting views of how such tallies will effect ballot casting on Oct. 14.

While there's no end to the debate around how voters' passions are swayed, if at all, by the numbers, you can bet the political parties read those tea leaves intently.

"(Polls) can be motivating if you feel you're in trouble and you feel you need to get the vote out, or if your party is close to the threshold (of a majority)," said David Lockhart, who was part of Liberal John Turner's 1988 federal campaign.

As for the notion that voters are motivated by anything but polls, Lockhart said he doesn't buy it.

"I think people are affected by polls."

For pollster Nik Nanos, the idea that voters make choices based polls undermines the democratic system.

"To assume that someone sees a poll and changes their vote basically debases democracy. It debases the voter as a nonthinker," Nanos said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How will parties capitalize on economic woes? Watch at metronews.ca/canada

7 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

News in brief

VANDALISM Spray paint, homophobic slurs, and more than a few rocks littered the campaign trail in Nova Scotia over the weekend. In Liberal MP Scott Brison's hometown of Cheverie, N.S., nine campaign signs were defaced Saturday night with the word "fag" written in pink spray paint. Brison is openly gay. In Halifax, rocks were thrown through the windows at the headquarters of Conservative Ted Larsen and Liberal Catherine Meade.

QUOTE "I'll tell you the problem with Stephen Harper's do-nothing attitude: You pull one thread and the whole sweater unravels — and it's the working people of Canada who get left out in the cold." — NDP Leader Jack Layton. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Message remains same for Dion

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion has earned a second chance to make a first impression in the latter half of this election campaign.

Polls suggest Liberal support has been on an upswing since the leaders' debates last week, when Dion charged out of the gate with a promise of immediate action to counter brewing economic trouble.

For all the change of tone, however, echoes of Dion's pre-debate style and strategy persist in his campaign.

With just a week to go until voting day, for example, he shows no sign that he's ready to stop pushing the much-maligned carbon tax plan that has been one of the chief targets for his opponents.

"The way to be profitable and strong as an economy in the 21st century is to bring the environment and the economy together."
Stéphane Dion

"The way to be profitable and strong as an economy in the 21st century is to bring the environment and the economy together," Dion told supporters yesterday during a campaign stop in Sidney, B.C., north of Victoria.

The Liberals have billed their so-called Green Shift plan as the best defence against economic uncertainty while providing incentives for a cleaner environment.

Canadians would see a drop in income and business taxes once the scheme is implemented, likely after the first budget under a Liberal government, Dion said.

But pundits have noted that voters remain wary of the plan, which Prime Minister Stephen Harper has derided as a "tax on everything." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Looking back

Tories have kept promises: Study

ANALYSIS Stephen Harper's government has fulfilled half the promises it made in the last election campaign, an analysis by The Canadian Press indicates.

The Canadian Press looked at 236 campaign promises in the January 2006 Conservative platform on items ranging from agriculture and the economy to social issues and trade. The examination indicates just more than 50 per cent of promises were carried out, with another 20 per cent partially fulfilled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MCC 893653-3375B HFL 10/08

U.S. Defence Department says China has cancelled some senior-level visits

China is cancelling some senior-level military contacts as a result of the United States' announcement of a planned arms sale to Taiwan. The Chinese are angry over the U.S. decision to sell Taiwan a huge package of military items, including missiles and helicopters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Give bailout time to work: Bush

U.S. President George W. Bush says the economy is going to be "just fine" in the long run, but the taxpayer-supported economic rescue plan will take time to work. He spoke as the Dow Jones industrials plunged as much as 800 points and set a new record for a one-day point drop.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. campaign gets personal

The gloves are officially off in the countdown to the American election as a struggling John McCain attempts to set the economic crisis aside and renew his once-successful attacks on Barack Obama's character and judgment.

The Republican presidential candidate disputed Obama's assertion that McCain opposed regulation to avert the country's current economic crisis, adding Obama was "not exactly an open book."

McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, once again accused Obama of hanging around with terrorists — though she started referring yesterday to his one-time associate William Ayers, a former member of the Vietnam-era militant group Weather Underground, as a "former terrorist."

Palin also reminded Americans about Obama's links to the notorious Rev. Jeremiah Wright, a topic McCain had once deemed off-limits.

The Obama campaign fired right back — and its salvo was resonant of the current economic crisis.

The campaign released an Internet ad yesterday showcasing McCain's involvement in the so-called Keating Five scandal of 20 years ago that left 20,000 mostly elderly investors without their life savings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

XINHUA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman with her child walks past a collapsed building yesterday in Gedar township, near the epicentre of an earthquake in Dangxiong County, Tibet.

Two Tibet quakes kill at least 30

LHASA Two earthquakes jolted Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, and surrounding areas yesterday, killing more than 30 people and collapsing hundreds of houses, China's state news agency said. Rescuers rushed in to try to save people buried in the rubble.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the first quake had a magnitude of 6.6 and struck at 4:30 p.m. The second one, measuring magnitude 5.1, hit about 15 minutes later, it said.

In Gedar township near the epicentre in Dangxiong County, an unknown number of people were trapped, and soldiers and rescue workers were dispatched to the site, the Xinhua news agency said.

Deaths also were reported in a neighbouring county, Xinhua said, but no figures were available.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PAKISTAN Police say at least 15 people have been killed and 50 wounded in a suicide bomb attack on a legislator's house in eastern Pakistan. It isn't clear if federal legislator Rasheed Akbar Niwani was among those killed or wounded.

ASTEROID A small asteroid was headed for a fiery but harmless dive into Earth's atmosphere early today over Africa, astronomers said in a first-of-its-kind advance warning. Harvard astronomer Tim Spahr said the asteroid was so small it wouldn't reach the ground before burning up and wouldn't hurt anyone.

PIRATES A U.S. navy spokeswoman says the remaining 20 crew members aboard a Ukrainian arms ship hijacked more than a week ago are in good health. The ship is being held by pirates off the coast of central Somalia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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6 bodies found in gated community in California
L.A. police say six bodies have been found in a home in an upscale community. They are victims of an apparent murder-suicide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One in 4 mammals may become extinct: Report

Conservationists have taken the first detailed look at the world's mammals in more than a decade, and the news isn't good.

"We estimate that one in four species is threatened with extinction, and that the population of one in two is declining," the team led by Jan Schipper of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in Gland, Switzerland, concluded in a report to be published Friday in the journal Science.

The report updates the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species, which overall includes 44,838 species, of which 16,928 are threatened with extinction. Of these, 3,246 are in the highest category of threat, critically endangered.

The IUCN estimated that 76 mammal species have gone extinct since 1500.

Among the mammals particularly in danger are primates, used for bush meat in parts of Africa and facing major loss of habitat in Southeast Asia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At high risk

- The report also notes unusually high threats to tapirs, hippos, bears, pigs and hogs, while among the less threatened are moles, opossums and free-tailed bats.

Brother of Afghan president denies links to drug trade

POLITICS President Hamid Karzai's brother denied yesterday that he has been involved in Afghanistan's heroin trade, and accused U.S. officials of fabricating allegations to harm the president.

The issue was revived over the weekend after the New York Times reported that two unnamed U.S. officials said the White House believes Ahmed Wali Karzai is involved in heroin trafficking.

Wali Karzai said U.S. officials are trying to put pressure on President Karzai to deflect attention from civilian casualties caused by U.S. military actions and force Karzai's government to release a prisoner the U.S. wants to talk to.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TALIBAN A former Taliban ambassador said yesterday that hardline militants sat with Afghan officials and Saudi King Abdullah over an important religious meal in Saudi Arabia late last month. He denied that the get-together could be construed as peace talks.

VOLCANO Central Indonesia's Mount Soputan volcano has erupted, shooting clouds of smoke and flames into the night sky. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EBay to cut 1,600 jobs

EBay Inc. said yesterday it will cut 1,600 jobs, 10 per cent of its workforce. About 1,000 full-time employees will be gone, while the rest of the cuts will come from letting temporary and part-time workers go and by leaving positions unfilled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Teachers buying cleaning service

TAKEOVER The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is taking over Aquilex Holdings, a major American provider of industrial cleaning and repair services.

The pension fund's Teachers' Private Capital unit did not disclose the financial terms of the purchase from Harvest Partners, a New York private equity firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Financial crisis spills over

George Goutzioulis of Tom Jones Steak House has been selling thousand-dollar bottles of wine to Bay Street's high rollers for 32 years. Not any more.

"Now, they're buying a glass of house red," he said.

Yesterday, just as the ticker showed a 1,200-point loss, his restaurant was virtually empty.

Goutzioulis' business is just one reflection of the global financial crisis that is now seeping into the Canadian economy. Others include falling oil and raw material prices, declining air travel, slumping sales of wireless gadgets, and real estate agents wondering where the next commission will come from.

> **"Now, they're buying a glass of house red."**
> George Goutzioulis

The market meltdown is having a major impact on the general economy because consumer confidence is disappearing, said Perrin Beatty, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The global credit crisis has sapped demand for resources and raw materials that underpin Canada's economic engine, said Paul Harris, portfolio manager at Avenue Investment Management.

"When you're in a slowdown, people don't need as much copper, they don't need as much oil."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Building activity slows down

Cooling economic activity has seen building permits plunge 13.5 per cent nationally to $5.6 billion in August from a month earlier.

In Toronto, the sector was down 11 per cent. The biggest hit was to the residential sector as developers pulled back from condominiums and apartments, where analysts warned of overbuilding.

Still, building permits are ahead by 4.5 per cent in the first eight months of the year, compared to the same time last year in the Toronto area.

Average prices for existing homes in the Toronto area fell by 3 per cent in September compared to a year earlier — the first time in more than a decade.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

RICH LIST Shanghai-based analyst Rupert Hoogewerf says 39-year-old appliance and property tycoon Huang Guangyu is China's richest man with assets estimated at $6.3 billion US. He was fourth last year when the top spot was held by Yang Huiyan, 27, whose wealth is thought to have shrunk to $4.9 billion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

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Even the smartest of cookies needs a little help navigating the financial world. So when you are looking for a professional to weigh in with advice on your investment portfolio performance or even what you can and can't write off, knowing who to turn to can be almost as confusing as getting advice in the first place. So here's our breakdown of some of the top financial experts you may want to add to your roster:

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

When They Can Help:

• Investment portfolio management and advice: Not sure how much you should be investing in stocks, bonds, GICs? Financial Advisors will assess your financial goals and focus on providing you with investment advice to match. They are compensated on an annual basis by a percentage of the assets they manage for you.

• Financial checkup/ planning: Some financial advisors are also designated as Financial Planners. They can review your entire financial picture and also offer suggestions on debt and insurance.

Look for:

• Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and someone who has passed the Canadian Securities Course and is licensed in your area.

Where to Find One:

• Financial Planners Standards Council (cfp-ca.org/public/public_findaplanner.asp).

FINANCIAL PLANNERS

When They Can Help:

• Financial checkup: If you need someone to review your different financial obligations and options — debt, insurance, stock options, retirement plans, savings — but you don't feel as if you have any of them under control. Many planners offer a full assessment for a fee rather than an on going percentage of what they sell you.

• Money management: You're not interested in single-handedly managing your own finances. You need help monitoring investments and alerts when it's time to shift your portfolio, the markets change or your needs may change.

• Guidance through life changes: You're a new parent contemplating if someone can stay at home. You're going through a divorce and are adjusting to your new financial setup. You want information and guidance with new tax, property, and retirement issues.

Look for:

• Accredited Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

Where to Find One:

• Financial Planners Standards Council (fpsccanada.org/find_a_cfp_professional).

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Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

This week's column discusses the bailout package and if it will be enough to turn the North American markets around. Read it at metronews.ca

Money matters in elections

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q Two years ago, my family and I became residents of Canada. I know very little about the Canadian election process. Particularly, how it impacts my family and our finances. How do I determine which party to choose?

Sondeep

A I applaud that you take this duty seriously. Let's have a glance at some of the promises:

Conservatives — PM Stephen Harper

• First-time homebuyers tax credit. Rebate up to $750.

• Increase Senior Age Credit by $1,000.

• New tax credit for parents with kids in eligible arts programs such as music, dance.

• Allow charitable groups to set up RESPs for kids from low-income families.

Liberals — Stéphane Dion

• A $600 per year increase of Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors.

• Additional $350 to existing $1,200 child care allowance.

• Carbon tax on fossil fuels, with an offsetting cut to business taxes.

• Simplify tax system for post-secondary students and provide $1,000 per year.

For the full column, including details about the NDP, visit metronews.ca.

MoreOnline
metronews.ca

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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Golf legend Ballesteros taken to hospital

Five-time major winner Seve Ballesteros was admitted to a Madrid hospital yesterday after feeling dizzy and fainting. Ballesteros was taken to La Paz hospital after briefly losing consciousness, the hospital said in a statement. His condition was stable, the hospital said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Westbrook has two broken ribs

All-Pro running back Brian Westbrook, left, broke two ribs in the Eagles' 23-17 loss to Washington on Sunday, though he stayed in and finished the game. Westbrook missed one game with an ankle injury, but it's too early to know if his latest injury will keep him out of Sunday's game at San Francisco. He leads the Eagles with 194 yards rushing and has six touchdowns, including two receiving. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Tampa Bay Ray-markable

Unheralded club shocks White Sox, moves on to AL championship

Tampa Bay 6 Chicago 2

B.J. Upton and these Tampa Bay Rays are headed home — to get ready for the American League championship series.

Worst in the majors last year, the Rays will play for a spot in the World Series after finishing off the Chicago White Sox 6-2 yesterday in Game 4 of the AL playoffs.

Upton homered twice, Andy Sonnanstine pitched a solid 5 2-3 innings and manager Joe Maddon's surprising Rays won 3-1 in the best-of-five series — their first trip to the post-season. Next up, the Boston Red Sox or the Los Angeles Angels starting Friday.

"We feel like we belong and it's showing right now," Upton said.

After staving off elimination several times and winning a tiebreaker for the AL Central title, the White Sox were finally knocked out.

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tampa Bay Rays catcher Dioner Navarro, right, leaps into the arms of relief pitcher Grant Balfour after the Rays beat the Chicago White Sox 6-2 in Game 4 of the ALDS.

The loss dashed Chicago's hope for a championship — days ago, local fans were thinking the Cubs and White Sox might meet in a Windy City Classic. But the Cubs got swept by the Dodgers and now both teams are done.

"They played better than us. There's no doubt. They pitched better. They execute better. They got big hits," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "They really did a tremendous job."

Upton, the game's second batter, homered to left-centre put the Rays ahead. He went deep again in the third, driving a full-count pitch from Gavin Floyd to centre and the confident Rays had a two-run cushion.

Tampa Bay, which never won more than 70 games during its 10 previous seasons, went from 96 losses last year to 97 wins and passed the big-spending Red Sox and New York Yankees in the AL East.

"It's a gratifying moment for all of us," Maddon said.

No longer bedevilled, the Rays won all year with young talent and improved pitching. Sonnanstine, who pitched a three-hit shutout against the White Sox at Tropicana Field in April, reversed a late-season slide that saw him go winless in his final seven starts allowing only two runs and three hits in the win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Youngster Schenn staying with big club

NHL This is a time of teaching for Ron Wilson, a season in which the head coach will measure progress for the Toronto Maple Leafs by the on-ice growth of his players rather than by wins and losses in the standings.

It's into this environment of learning that 2008 first-round pick Luke Schenn will make his NHL debut.

Although the Maple Leafs won't finalize their roster until Tuesday morning, they confirmed yesterday that the 18-year-old defenceman taken fifth overall last June is going to open the season with the big club.

General manager Cliff Fletcher also said that forward Mark Bell has been placed on waivers and will be assigned to the AHL Marlies should he not be claimed, as the roster's paring down neared a conclusion ahead of Thursday's season-opener at Detroit.

"We still have a couple more decisions we have to make," said Fletcher.

DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Luke Schenn of the Toronto Maple Leafs

Keeping Schenn, of course, was one of the team's biggest decisions and the choice will doubtlessly be debated ad nauseam in the Toronto fishbowl.

Both Fletcher and Wilson singled him out as the biggest surprise of training camp, taken by his poise and composure during the pre-season.

A better litmus test, however, will come once the games count and Schenn competes against rosters trimmed of training camp fat.

The Leafs can hold on to him for nine games before his contract as a junior-aged player kicks in, and over that span they'll carefully assess whether playing against the elevated competition encourages or hampers his growth.

"I could easily say he's on our team and it makes me a better coach because I have a better defenceman than some of the other guys," said Wilson. "But we have to think about what's best for Luke's development, where is he going to be as a player in three years if he plays here, where is he going to be in three years if we send him back to junior."

If Schenn sticks beyond October, it will mean Wilson believes the Saskatoon native is ready to handle significant minutes.

A key goal for the coach is to let his young players grow through real-game experience, which means tolerating mistakes, even if it leads to losses.

That approach is likely to cause consternation among the jaded faithful, but Wilson believes it's the necessary foundation in building a future winner for Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Possible Leafs lineup

With one cut to go, here is what the Buds may look like

- Left wing – Center – Right wing

Alexei Ponikarovsky – Nik Antropov – Jason Blake
Jiri Tlusty – Mikhail Grabovski – Niklas Hagman
John Mitchell – Alex Steen – Boyd Devereaux
Dominic Moore – Matt Stajan – Jamal Mayers
Extra forward: Ian White

- Defence

Tomas Kaberle – Luke Schenn
Pavel Kubina – Carlo Colaiacovo
Mike Van Ryn – Jonas Frogren
Extra D: Staffan Kronwall or Anton Stralman

- Goaltenders

Vesa Toskala, Curtis Joseph

- Injury reserve: LW Nikolai Kulemin, D Jeff Finger
- Suspended: LW Ryan Hollweg

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canucks add O'Brien from Bolts

NHL The Vancouver Canucks added some size to their blue-line yesterday by acquiring defenceman Shane O'Brien from the Tampa Bay Lightning in exchange for Lukas Krajicek.

O'Brien

The Canucks also sent minor-league forward Juraj Simek to the Lightning for right-winger Michel Ouellet.

O'Brien, 25, has played in 158 NHL games, scoring six goals, adding 31 assists and collecting 330 penalty minutes.

Krajicek, a 25-year-old native of Prostejov, Czech Republic, had 13 points in 39 games during an injury-plagued campaign last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian revealed as Derby investor

SOCCER Canadian businessman Brett Wilson was revealed as Derby's leading investor by the consortium that bought the English soccer club in January. The 51-year-old Wilson is also a panelist on the CBC television show Dragons' Den, a program that sees entrepreneurs compete for financing. Derby dropped out of the Premier League with the lowest-ever points total in May and is 15th in the 24-team second-tier League Championship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

NHL TSN Hockey Insider Bob McKenzie has signed on as the newest member of AM 640's team of hockey insiders. McKenzie will be a regular contributor to Leafs Lunch with Darren Dreger weekdays noon to 1 p.m., as well as The Bill Watters Show, weekdays from 4 to 7 p.m. McKenzie is widely considered the most connected man in the sport. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Astros' Backe arrested after brawl erupts at wedding

Houston Astros pitcher Brandon Backe was among 10 people arrested during a brawl with police at a weekend wedding reception in a Galveston, Texas, hotel bar. The 30-year-old Backe ignored police orders to back away from the fight, and struggled with officers who attempted to handcuff him, according to police reports. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One time at band camp...

Wisconsin bans marching band for several alleged incidents

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Bizarre allegations of hazing, alcohol abuse and inappropriate sexual behaviour cost the University of Wisconsin football team big time the other night.

And it wasn't even the football players who were charged with the wrongdoings. It was, er, the marching band.

For their alleged indiscretions, the band was banned. Yep, for the first time in 40 years, the Wisconsin band was prohibited from performing at a home football game because, reports allege, female band members were forced to kiss each other during a recent road trip to gain access to the bus bathroom, because at least one female was forced to mimic fellatio on a sex toy and because a tuba player had his head shaved against his will.

I've never really seen any concrete value in marching bands at sporting events — to me, they're about as useful as national anthems and maybe cheerleaders — but Wisconsin players insist they suffered against Ohio State the other night because of the musicians' absence.

"Without them," receiver Nick Toon was quoted as saying, "it was too quiet and we didn't have the home-field advantage we should have had."

Wisconsin squandered a 10-7 halftime lead before falling 20-17.

71 The CFL-record number of passes caught Saturday in Hamilton. The Tiger-Cats' Quinton Porter completed 27. Montreal Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo completed 44. The previous record was 70, set in 1993.

• O.J. Simpson was so confident he'd beat the rap again that he had an acquittal party planned.

Simpson associate Thomas Riccio even invited U.S. radio-show host Anthony Crivello to join O.J.'s entourage for the party when the two were finished with an interview Friday night.

"That's how certain he was," Crivello said Saturday, after Simpson and co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart were found guilty of all charges, including armed robbery and kidnapping with a deadly weapon. "The party was all prepared."

• The Boston Bruins are seeking to trade veterans Peter Schaefer and P.J. Axelsson ... U.S. television viewers finally will get to see Hockey Night in Canada coverage in their homes this year, thanks to the new NHL Network, owned by the league ... TSN likely will carry parts of an interesting ESPN interview tonight, when former Montreal Expos reliever Ugueth Urbina will speak from a Venezuelan prison, where he is spending a 14-year sentence for attempted murder ... The Winnipeg Blue Bombers' Milt Stegall, leading receiver in CFL history, tried to help Sportsnet's poor ratings on the weekend by holding one of the network's microphones, looking into one of its cameras and suggesting with a straight face that hockey "isn't a sport." He compared it to darts. Don't know if the strange revelation helped Sportsnet, but it sure didn't help Stegall's image. Made himself look bush-league.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Tennis Mauresmo advances

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

Former top-ranked Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo rallied to beat Alize Cornet 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4 yesterday in the first round of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow.

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Hurricanes' Walker out six weeks

Carolina Hurricanes forward Scott Walker is expected to be sidelined for six weeks after surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left hand. The surgery comes four days before the Hurricanes open the regular season Friday night against Florida. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stamkos leads rookie crop

The bar is set high for Steven Stamkos.

The last three forwards chosen first overall in the NHL entry draft — Patrick Kane, Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin — were immediate impact players in the NHL

Kane and Ovechkin won the league's rookie award — the Calder Trophy — in their freshman years. Crosby lost out to Ovechkin for the rookie trophy in 2006, but won both the NHL scoring race and Hart Trophy as MVP the following season.

Stamkos

The Tampa Bay Lightning made Stamkos's name the first one called in June. The 18-year-old from Toronto feels the spotlight on him, but also thinks he's in the right environment to succeed.

"I think there's a lot of pressure and big shoes to fill," Stamkos said. "I'm coming into a great situation here in Tampa. There's so many veteran players here that have established themselves, like Vincent Lecavalier, who went first overall 10 years ago."

Other rookies to watch this season include Anaheim forward Bobby Ryan, Columbus winger Jakub Voracek, Pittsburgh defenceman Alex Goligoski, Florida forward Shawn Matthias and Los Angeles defenceman Drew Doughty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Poland's suspended football federation reached a last-minute deal with the government yesterday that will allow it to avoid a suspension by FIFA and retain hosting rights for the 2012 European Championship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
DIVISIONAL SERIES PLAYOFFS
BEST OF FIVE
L.A. Angels vs. Boston
LAST NIGHT'S GAME
L.A. Angels at Boston
TOMORROW'S GAME
x-Boston at L.A. Angels, 9:37
(Boston leads series 2-1)
Tampa Bay vs. Chicago W. Sox
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
Tampa Bay 6 Chicago Sox 2
(Tampa Bay wins series 3-1)
NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISIONAL SERIES PLAYOFFS
BEST OF FIVE
Chicago Cubs vs. L.A. Dodgers
(Dodgers win series 3-0)
Philadelphia vs. Milwaukee
(Philadelphia leads series 3-1)
x — only played if necessary.

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
y-Montreal	9	5	0	18
Winnipeg	5	9	0	10
TORONTO	**4**	**10**	**0**	**8**
Hamilton	3	11	0	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
x-Calgary	9	5	0	18
x-B.C.	9	5	0	18
x-Saskatchewan	9	5	0	18
Edmonton	8	6	0	16

(x - clinched playoff spot)
(y - clinched division title)
WEEK 16
FRIDAY'S GAMES
TORONTO at Winnipeg, 7:30
Edmonton at B.C., 10:30
MONDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Montreal, 1
Saskatchewan at Calgary, 4:30

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800
New England	3	1	0	.750
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500
Miami	2	2	0	.500

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400
Houston	0	4	0	.000

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	4	1	0	.800
San Diego	2	3	0	.400
Oakland	1	3	0	.250
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000
Washington	4	1	0	.800
Dallas	4	1	0	.800
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	4	1	0	.800
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Chicago	3	2	0	.600
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250
Detroit	0	4	0	.000

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	3	2	0	.600
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400
Seattle	1	3	0	.250
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000

WEEK 5
LAST NIGHT'S GAME
Minnesota at New Orleans
WEEK 6
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Atlanta, 1
Miami at Houston, 1
Detroit at Minnesota, 1
Oakland at New Orleans, 1
St. Louis at Washington, 1
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 1
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 1
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1
Jacksonville at Denver, 4:05
Green Bay at Seattle, 4:15
Dallas at Arizona, 4:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 4:15
New England at San Diego, 8:15
MONDAY'S GAME
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, 8:30

SOCCER

MLS GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
SATURDAY'S GAME
TORONTO at FC Dallas, 8:30

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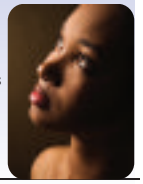

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Call or Drop In! (All messages returned within 1 business day)

German cyclist tests positive for doping

German cyclist Stefan Schumacher tested positive for a banned substance during the Tour de France, his team said yesterday. Schumacher won both individual time trials at the Tour and held the race lead for two days this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I won't slack: O'Neal

There's a tendency for NBA veterans to coast through the pre-season, saving themselves for when the bright lights turn on and the real season begins.

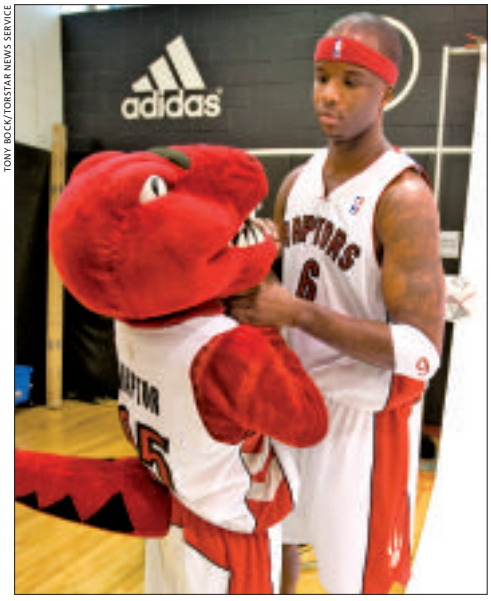
Jermaine O'Neal is one veteran that doesn't plan to coast, nor can he afford to.

The six-time all-star forward makes his pre-season debut for Toronto tonight when the Raptors face the Cavaliers in Cleveland in their first exhibition game.

On the mend from a serious knee injury that kept him out of all but one pre-season game for the Indiana Pacers last season, along with 42 games of the regular season, O'Neal is keen to get on the court and set the tone for the season.

"I just want to see this thing unfold, it's not about anything in the past, it's about moving forward," O'Neal said after yesterday's practice at the Air Canada Centre, the first back in Toronto after the team's week-long training camp in Ottawa. "I've missed quite a few games in the last couple of years so it's not about needing rest or kind of easing into it, it's about competing at a high level.

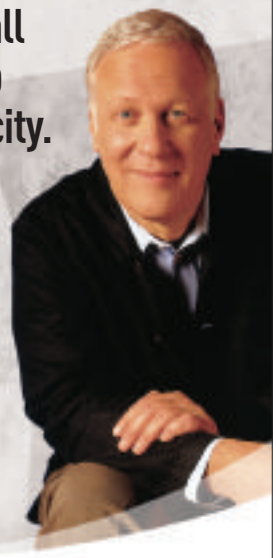
The Raptors host the New York Knicks at the Air Canada Centre tomorrow, as part of a string of seven pre-season games in 15 days. THE CANADIAN PRESS



TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jermaine O'Neal and The Raptor get acquainted at the Raptors media day last week. O'Neal has said he will not coast this year and will be giving a full effort for his new club.

Sometimes it takes a small Town Hall Meeting to help shape the future of a big city.



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Queen's Muslim students report racist incidents

According to the Queen's Journal, the campus newspaper at Queen's University, the school's Muslim Students Association office was burglarized Sept. 20 and up to $900 in donated funds stolen. The following day, a poster was vandalized with racist slurs. Muslim students also reported incidents of sexual and racial harassment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Tuition issues

A student editorial in the McGill Tribune protests Quebec policies on tuition stating the rule of exempting French foreign students from paying foreign student fees, allowing them to pay the reduced Quebec rate, is discriminatory. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Doi Chaang coffee wants it to be known that it "ensures a fair reward goes back through to the farmers" in Thailand.

Coffee brewed with integrity

Thai-Canadian Doi Chaang couples quality with humanitarian efforts

Small Business

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Doi Chaang Coffee doesn't want to be known for its humanitarian practices, though it has them. It doesn't want praise for helping a poverty-stricken area of Thailand, though it did. If you're going to buy Doi Chaang Coffee, it wants it to be for one reason: Quality.

"They do not wish to have charity or donations but they want to be known for the quality of their coffee and they want their coffee to be single-origined, not blended with other coffee," says John Darch, founder of the Thai-Canadian company.

It is an 800-family farming co-operative based in northwest Thailand's Doi Chaang (which translates to "Elephant Mountain") village. After decades of developing businesses in Thailand, Darch took his admiration of the village's self-sufficiency and put his knowledge of the area to work in a rare overseas partnership.

Teaming up with the coffee cultivators in Doi Chaang, Darch decided to bring the high-quality coffee to Canada to sell in a fair trade-rivalling financial agreement with the farmers. While Doi Chaang in Canada finances farming of the coffee, the farmers retain control of all Thai-based operations.

Darch says repaying the Thai people for how they helped him in his business past motivates his altruistic pursuits. "It's a good feeling when I can honestly say we are representing the farmers and that we're not doing this as a charity — it's a commercial operation. Our goal is to ensure a fair reward goes back through to the farmers."

Doi Chaang has a good honour system, commits to importing certain amounts of coffee and prepays for the product before it is delivered from Thailand, according to Darch. However, he says reaching the company's goal is inhibited by the challenge of informing Canadians about its practices.

"As long as we present (the coffee) with integrity and clarity and total transparency, (the Doi Chaang farmers) are very comfortable with that. When (the public) understands the compelling story behind it in terms of quality and structure, we gain their support."

It is support Darch will need if he hopes to reach his expansion plans. Doi Chaang coffee is sold in stores mostly in British Columbia and Alberta and now in 15 stores across Toronto. After establishing itself more firmly in Ontario, Darch says they hope to expand into Quebec, and eventually extend into Europe.

Where to get it

- ECO Health — Richmond Hill
- Hallelujah Organics — Newmarket
- Harmony Wholefoods — Orangeville
- Lady & Son Butcher — 1175 Queen St. E. — Toronto
- Noah's Natural Foods — Toronto
- Pusateri's — Toronto
- Summerhill Market — Toronto
- The Butchers — 2636 Yonge St. — Toronto
- The Mercantile — 297 Roncesvalles Ave., — Toronto
- The Pantry — 974 College St. — Toronto

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Online videos teach students how to cheat
Several online videos are gaining popularity, demonstrating ways that students can cheat on exams. Some of the methods seem to require more work than actually studying for tests. One professor is surprised by the boldness of the videos — one actually shows the maker of the cheating scheme. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Is bilingualism needed for public service jobs?

Before giving up on French, keep some of this info in mind.

Many Canadians are under the false impression that you have to be bilingual to work for the federal government.

In reality, the proportion of bilingual positions varies across the country. Globally, about 40 per cent of federal positions require varying levels of bilingualism.

In the National Capital Region (Ottawa), where many federal offices provide services to all parts of the country, 65 per cent of positions are designated bilingual.

Meanwhile, only about five per cent of positions in Western Canada and 10 per cent of positions in Ontario require various levels of competence in both English and French.

Those bilingual positions allow the federal government to offer bilingual services where there is significant demand or where the nature or location of the office requires that services be provided in both official languages.

In some regions, public service supervisors must also be bilingual, to be able to supervise workers in either of the two official languages.

NEWS CANADA

How it works

- Within some regions of Quebec and Ontario, as well as anywhere in New Brunswick and the National Capital Region, federal institutions have a responsibility to allow their employees to work and be supervised in either English or French.
- For instance, this means that all supervisors in Montréal must be able to supervise their employees in both English and French. A Francophone public servant in Moncton or Sudbury must have access to computer software in French. Similarly, a group of human resources specialists serving an entire department from Ottawa must be able to answer queries in either language.
- Outside those bilingual regions, the language of work is either French (elsewhere in Quebec) or English (elsewhere in Canada).

NEWS CANADA

Some bilingual benefits

- **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:** The federal public service is Canada's largest employer. Although not all federal public service jobs are designated bilingual, about 40 per cent of them require that you speak French and English.
- **TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING:** Speaking both official languages gives you a better understanding of the linguistic and cultural duality on which our country was founded on.
- **NEW HORIZONS:** Learning a new language opens up a world of opportunities. Learning French means you can converse with all the of Francophones living around the world.

NEWS CANADA

Ways to learn French

- Learning French or retaining the French language skills you already have is easier than you may think:
- Watch television shows or films in French. Listen carefully to the dialogue.
- Instead of visiting your favourite bilingual website in your own language, read the information in French.
- Visit a French community in Canada or take a trip to a French-speaking country and commit to speaking only your second language. NEWS CANADA

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Obesity heightens risk of prostate cancer death

Men with prostate cancer who are overweight or obese are more than twice as likely as men of normal weight to die of the disease — and increased levels of insulin may be a major reason, researchers say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health

What's good for your skin?

Ever wonder which of the thousands of beauty and skin care products out there actually work? Author Paula Begoun debunks all myths and offers readers scientifically-researched reviews on many of these products in the 7th edition of Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me, $29.95. Available at Chapters/Indigo and at *Cosmeticscop.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Smoking stats among girls

• Among girls 15 to 19 years old, 18 per cent smoke. By age 20 to 24, it is up to 23 per cent.

Model of good health

Activist discusses smoking pressure in fashion industry

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Anna Bertram had it all: beauty, youth and ambition. But she also had an addiction.

Here's how it started: When Bertram was a teenager growing up in Montreal, she beat out 500 other girls to win a modelling contest put on by a fashion magazine. At the impressionable age of 16, she flew to Paris to start her career in modelling. She felt young and beautiful, but she was susceptible to the peer pressure of those older than her, especially because her parents were not with her. She wanted to prove she really fit in with the stylish modelling crowd. "I was on set and someone offered me a cigarette," she says. "I felt like that would make me cool, like I belonged with the grown-ups." She accepted the cigarette and smoked it, and so began 10 years of being hooked on nicotine. "I was that cool model. That pretty girl. But it's uglier," she says of her smoking habit.

Bertram's career was dazzling. She became the face of Avon, modelling on the runways of Europe, New York and Japan. She was featured in Elle magazine.

Bertram was naturally thin, and didn't use smoking as a weight-loss tool, but she recognizes that many models do. "A lot of models think about their weight. They have to be thin. Smoking could be one aspect of that." Even when she went to university, Bertram still thought smoking was a "cool, studenty" thing to do. And, like many young people, she felt immortal. "My health didn't concern me because I was so young."

BEN LEMPHERS/METRO TORONTO

Model and anti-smoking activist Anna Bertram started smoking at the age of 16 as a means to fit in with the modelling crowd.

It was 10 years later that she began to think about health. Her fiancé hated her smoking, and she felt like she was sneaking around and lying to him. She failed three times to quit but kept caving in. Finally, nine years ago, she was successful, mainly by changing who she hung around with and avoiding the triggers to smoking.

She is now 35, still modelling, and a mother of two children. She has a message for girls: "I think young people see smoking as something cool. It really isn't."

"I think young people see smoking as something cool. It really isn't."
Anna Bertram, model

The reality is that Bertram's experience is not old-fashioned. Smoking is on the upswing in teenaged girls today. "The rate of females smoking in their teen years is going up more than men," says Dr. Lew Pliamm, medical director of the Quit Clinic in Toronto and a lecturer in family medicine at the University of Toronto. "This is all about being thin and fitting in with peers; they are revolting against society."

"Models are well known to smoke and drink coffee; it makes them thin and up," says Dr. Pliamm. So regular girls do it too. "They identify with weight loss, being hip, fitting in, being cool."

Dr. Pliamm recommends young people don't start smoking. If you already smoke, get help with quitting as soon as possible. Many clinics are covered by provincial health insurance. And do your homework first, advises Dr. Pliamm.

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True comfort food

Chewing on a carrot offers mental benefits

From **Best Health Magazine** on newsstands now
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Nutrition researchers are now finding that certain foods help stave off depression, control pain and trigger excitement.

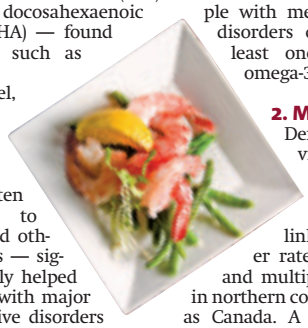
"We're on the cusp of finding out just how important nutrition is to mental health," says Brenda Leung, a nutrition researcher at the University of Calgary who is studying food's effect on post-partum depression.

While some of the research is preliminary, it can't hurt to put more of these foods on your plate.

Preliminary research out of the University of Calgary found that milk fortified with vitamin D and fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids may help ward off depression.

1. Fish

A University of Arizona scientific review concluded the omega-3 fatty acids eicosapenta-enoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) — found in fish such as salmon, mackerel, tuna and sardines, and often added to eggs and other foods — significantly helped people with major depressive disorders and bipolar depression.



The American Psychiatric Association endorsed the review and now recommends that adults eat fish twice a week, and that people with mental health disorders consume at least one gram of omega-3s a day.

2. Milk

Deficiencies in vitamin D have already been linked to higher rates of cancer and multiple sclerosis in northern countries such as Canada. A 2008 study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry showed that it also has a link to depression. Researchers in Amsterdam looked at 1,282 seniors and found that vitamin D levels were 14 per cent lower in those with depression. Milk, soy drinks and margarine are fortified with D, and it occurs naturally in fish, liver and egg yolks. Health Canada currently recommends that adults ages 19 to 50 take an additional 200 IU per day in a supplement.

3. Grains and greens

Leafy greens and fortified cereals are good for your brain. At the University of Kuopio in Finland, a study followed 2,313 men for more than 10 years. Those with the lowest intake of folate (vitamin B9, found in lentils, spinach, berries, oranges and avocados) were more likely to be diagnosed with depression than those who got more. Deficiencies in vitamin B12 (in shellfish, dairy and eggs), and vitamin B6 (in bananas, potatoes and fortified cereal) have also been linked to depression.

4. Tea

A cup of tea does soothe. A survey of 2,000 Finns found that those who drank a cup of tea every day were less likely to be depressed than those who didn't. And no one who drank more than five cups a day was found to be depressed. Studies have theorized that the theanine in tea helps calm you.

5. Carrots, sweet potatoes and squash

Orange vegetables with beta carotene — part of a fat-soluble group of compounds called carotenoids — not only help your eyesight, but also affect the brain. A study published in 2007 followed a group of 5,956 men for 18 years, by which time they were over age 65, and compared those who took beta carotene supplements with those who didn't. Those taking beta carotene (which the body converts to vitamin A) did significantly better on cognition, verbal memory and other brain-related tests. Avoid beta carotene supplements if you are or ever were a smoker; studies link them to a higher risk of lung cancer in smokers.

Best Health is on newsstands now. For more, go to besthealthmag.ca.

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Maintain your smile

While apples don't actually clean the teeth, biting and chewing an apple stimulates production of saliva, reducing tooth decay by lowering the levels of bacteria in the mouth. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

The commitment-phobe gene

Male rodents/humans share bonding predispositions

According to a study of about 500 single and married men, the same gene that affects a rodent's ability to mate for life may affect human males' ability to commit.

I can see it now. You meet a nice guy, you're out on your first date together, things are going swimmingly and by about dessert you're thinking: I like this guy. I could see this going somewhere. At which point you give him your best come-hither look, gently take his hand in yours and stab him with a pin prick to draw some blood so you can test his commitment status.

Don't laugh; it could just be a matter of time before some entrepreneurial spirit takes advantage of the recent findings of a team of U.S. and Swedish researchers and makes this scenario possible.

According to a study of about 500 single and married men, the same gene that affects a rodent's ability to mate for life may affect human males' ability to commit. Seems there is a certain prairie vole that mates for life. The male is very attentive, looks after the pups, helps with feeding; in other words, every woman's dream mate. Then there is the meadow vole, a scamp of a vole that's only interested in one-night stands. Turns out the only difference between these voles is in a gene that plays a role in determining whether or not the vole is a commitment-phobe. Human males have a similar gene and the guys in the study with the meadow vole version of the gene earned low scores on their partner bonding scale, and were less likely to be married at all.

As if guys need more reasons to avoid commitment. Imagine: "Oh sorry, baby, I cheated on you, but I can't help myself. I'm genetically programmed to stray."

"As far as I'm concerned, commitment is more about choice than anything else."

Luckily, as a colleague of mine so eloquently once put it, we are more than simply "hairy bags of water." As such, attributing one's behaviour entirely to genetics is a cop out. In fact, one could argue that our ability to commit has more to do with what's going on in our jeans than in our genes.

As far as I'm concerned, commitment is more about choice than anything else. It's about deciding that your current relationship is worth more than the fleeting excitement you get from a brand new attraction. But as a culture we like new: the newest technology, the newest trends, the newest brand of dish soap. When it comes to relationships, new is without baggage and someone who knows you so well you hardly get away with any crap anymore.

Commitment doesn't mean you won't ever be attracted to anyone else ever again, or that your partner won't bore you or drive you crazy a good percentage of the time. It does mean, though, that when he or she does, you won't automatically bail, or start shopping for a new model. Because remember, the person you're with was also new once.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Yum Brands to add calorie info to menu boards

Fast-food company Yum Brands Inc., the parent of KFC, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, and A&W said recently it will voluntarily place product calorie information on menu boards at its company-owned U.S. restaurants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Autism and Asperger's syndrome may be partly attributed to the pairing of people who are organized and rule-oriented, say some scientists.

Similarities may affect offspring

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Organized brainy male seeks organized brainy female.

It is easier these days for people with similar traits to find each other — through chat rooms, university classes, global travel and jobs. When they do, it can have interesting effects on their children, say scientists who study evolutionary theory.

A global rise in autism and Asperger's syndrome may be partly attributed to the attraction of people who are organized and rule-oriented — rather than empathetic and sociable — to each other.

Simon Baron-Cohen, a professor of developmental psychopathology and director of the Autism Research Centre at Cambridge University in the U.K., suggests that parents who both have these qualities have a greater tendency to have children who have conditions like Asperger's or autism. The number of autistic children in the Silicon Valley area of California, where thousands of IT experts settled in the 1990s, has tripled.

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Good Health!
1. Millette, M., F.M. Luquet, M. Lacroix. 2007. In vitro growth control of selected pathogens by Lactobacillus acidophilus and Lactobacillus casei-fermented milk, Letters in Applied Microbiology, Vol. 44. P. 314-319.

Common car seat mistakes

Three mistakes parents make with kids' car seats, says the Canadian Pediatric Society: Not properly securing it to the vehicle; not attaching the harness snugly; and not positioning the chest clip at armpit level. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

An estimated 15 to 20 per cent of the population has some form of eczema, also known as atopic dermatitis.

Dry, itchy, inflamed skin?

Hydration is key to healing eczema, dermatologists say

As the temperature begins to drop and the moisture is seemingly sucked out of the indoor air, people who suffer from eczema need to start paying more attention to their skin, doctors say.

An estimated 15 to 20 per cent of the population has some form of eczema, also known as atopic dermatitis. People with the condition have flare-ups of itchy, dry and inflamed skin, which can thicken to become red and scaly.

Dr. Robert Jackson is an Ottawa dermatologist who has dealt with the ravages of cold and dry air in the north. For the past decade, he's been the visiting specialist who treats patients in Iqaluit during twice-yearly trips.

Atopic dermatitis shows up frequently in the north and there is almost certainly an inherited tendency, Jackson explained.

"The dry climate up there sometimes makes a difference because we know that atopic dermatitis patients have skin which is dry anyway, and if you're in a place where it's very, very dry — because although it's cold it's still very dry — that probably is a factor. But that's more of an aggravating factor. The basic reason is that there is some genetic determination."

"We're trying to get the message across that there's a lot that you can do yourself to look after the condition."
Dr. Larry Warshawski, president of the Canadian Dermatology Association

Jackson and more than a dozen other dermatologists recently held a gathering on Baffin Island — billed as the first medical specialists meeting ever held in Nunavut — and launched a national eczema awareness campaign. The colder northern setting was appropriate for their message warning that fall and winter are critical times for patients.

"We're trying to get the message across that there's a lot that you can do yourself to look after the condition," said Dr. Larry Warshawski, president of the Canadian Dermatology Association, who attended the meeting.

"One of the main ones is just to keep yourself well hydrated, because part of the problem with eczema is that you lose the barrier function of your skin, so the skin is not as good a barrier to irritants or allergens or whatever it may be. And when it's exposed to these irritants, they can make the eczema worse," he said from Vancouver, where he practises.

"And so a simple thing like keeping your skin well hydrated or well moisturized will make your life a lot more comfortable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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†Rock CL, et al. *Obesity*. 2007;15: 939-949.

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Clear the clutter
If you need a lift, tackle one cleanup job: Weed the garden, clean out the junk drawer, tidy your desk or organize your computer files. A sense of satisfaction is a form of stress relief. BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Read, slim down: Study

Literature can impact teen obesity

She hates shopping because nothing fits. She's got high blood pressure and her cholesterol is through the roof. And she's just 12.

What's an overweight tween-ager to do? Start reading, a new study suggests.

In the first study to look at the impact of literature on adolescent obesity, researchers at Duke Children's Hospital in North Carolina discovered that reading the right type of novel can help kids lose weight.

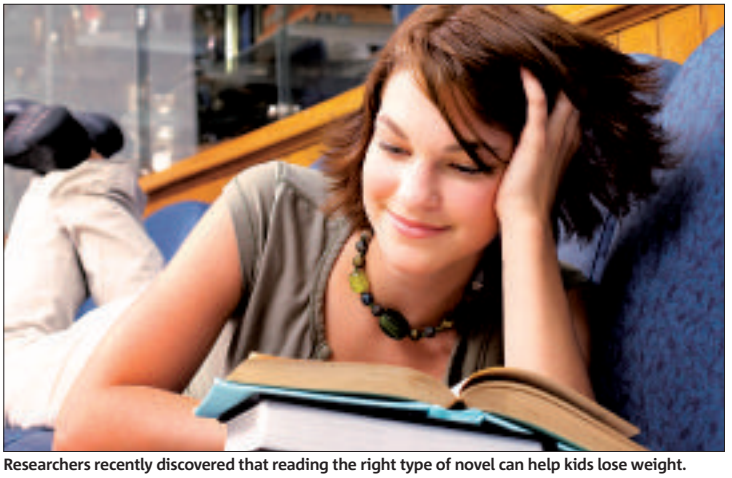
Researchers asked 31 obese girls ages nine to 13, who were already enrolled in a weight-loss program, to read an age-appropriate novel called Lake Rescue (Beacon Street Girls), whose protagonist derides herself as "the big girl" at school. The novel was written with the help of pediatric experts to include the latest research on weight management. Healthy lessons and positive messages are woven into the adventure-heavy plot. As the story evolves, the heroine learns to make healthier lifestyle choices and finds a mentor to help her.

A group of 33 girls read a different book called Charlotte in Paris, which did not have an overweight protagonist, and another group of 17 girls read neither novel.

"We didn't tell the girls which book was supposed to help them," says Alexandra Russell, a fourth-year medical student at Duke who led the study and presented the findings at the Obesity Society's annual scientific meeting in Arizona on the weekend.

After six months, researchers found both reading groups had lost weight, but the girls who read Lake Rescue lost more. They lowered their body mass index, a ratio of weight and height used to measure obesity, by just under one per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Researchers recently discovered that reading the right type of novel can help kids lose weight.

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300 sequel in the works

Zack Snyder has confirmed there will be a 300 sequel. The director, who helmed the movie adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel in 2006, has confirmed the author is penning and drawing a new story on which the film followup will be based. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Treasure chest

Johnny Depp is to earn $56 million US for the fourth Pirates of the Caribbean film. The sum is reportedly the largest upfront payment in film history. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Uncovering Alanis

Pop star gets personal on Flavors of Entanglement

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Alanis Morissette has two objectives when she swings through her home and native land — to come to grips with her grandmother's death and to destroy Massey Hall.

During an over-the-phone press conference, the multi-Grammy and Juno Award winning singer-songwriter detailed the uphill battle she fought to play a gig in her native Ottawa during her tour promoting her seventh album, Flavors Of Entanglement.

"I really, really wanted to play in Ottawa basically. My touring agent and I and my manager talked at great length trying to figure out logistically how to make it happen, and I wouldn't stop until we did, so I'm excited," she said.

"My grandmother passed away last year, so I've been staying away from Ottawa a little bit out of fear of the immense grief that I would be reminded of. So this will be my way of coming back through music."

On blowing the roof off of Toronto's famous Massey Hall venue, she simply says, "Let's hope!"

Produced by Guy Sigsworth (no stranger to women in pop, he previously worked with Bjork, Madonna and Imogen Heap among others), Morissette's Flavors Of Entanglement walks the line between synth-heavy dance loops and funeral dirges, waxing on grief in much the same way that her debut in alt-rock, 1995's Jagged Little Pill, focused on her rage.

In concert ...

- Alanis Morissette plays Massey Hall tomorrow night.

She may come by it honestly: In February 2007, she announced her split with Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds (Gossip rags salivated over his engagement to actress Scarlett Johanson last May.). Couple that with her grandmother's passing and one can see the starlet, who has sold more than 55 million albums, does indeed have something to cry about. She wanted to show her grieving and healing process through the music.

"I really wanted to focus on the recovery aspect of things and showing how important having support is, whether it's in the form of therapists or friends or people hugging us and touching us in non-sexual ways and having your head pet," she said.

It has been Morissette's mandate throughout her career — unashamedly exposing her innermost feelings as a type of catharsis for herself and her fans.

"I think the bigger pain for me is the lie of pretending to not be human," she said. "When I try to defend myself and present myself as an infallible, invincible, impenetrable human being, that's when I'm in pain because it's not true. I think most importantly, living my purpose, which is to share what I experience for people to make their own, so that I can comfort or uplift or thought provoke, invite, that's my life purpose."

WARNER MUSIC PHOTO

Alanis Morissette wanted to express her personal grieving and healing through music on latest disc Flavors of Entanglement.

Bull Durham back?
A sequel to Kevin Costner's award-winning baseball movie Bull Durham is in the pipeline, according to reports. Costner has been meeting with the film's director Ron Shelton to discuss the possibility of resurrecting his Crash Davis character in a sequel to the film. IMDB.COM

DVD picks

Adam Sandler stars in You Don't Mess with the Zohan.

You Don't Mess with the Zohan
Director: Dennis Dugan
Rating: PG-13

ADAM SANDLER'S movies have become so drearily predictable — the violent nerd always gets the beautiful girl — that when he does something a little different, you can't help but smile. Even if a few brain cells die in the process.

You Don't Mess with the Zohan is possibly the nuttiest thing Sandler has ever done, but it's also funnier than most of his recent comedies. Credit that to his co-writers Robert Smigel and Judd Apatow, who manage to slide a few good zingers in between the gross-out jokes.

Sandler plays an ace Israeli counter-terrorist commando named Zohan who yearns not to be the new James Bond, super spy, but rather the new Paul Mitchell, super stylist. Zohan decamps for New York for a new career in hair clipping and blow-drying, but his past follows him, in the person of Palestinian nemesis The Phantom (John Turturro, in great comic form), a man so menacing he chugs glasses of live baby chickens.

The movie is only fitfully funny, especially when a lame subplot about rapacious developers intrudes, but there are some decent laughs. And the great thing about the DVD is you can always skip ahead to the next section.

The disc is available in single, double disc and Blu-ray packages, rated and unrated, with mucho deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes action.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Happening
Director: M. Night Shyamalan
Rating: R

IS M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN even trying anymore?

The once-promising horror auteur follows his dead-in-the-water Lady in the Water with an eco-terror thriller so laughably inane it had theatre audiences howling at suicide scenes.

And what a waste of a promising concept this is. The Happening imagines a rebellion by plants that are mad as hell and not going to rake it anymore. They switch from pumping out oxygen to instead producing a brain gas that causes humans to spontaneously hit the "off" button in various gruesome ways. Mark Wahlberg, Zooey Deschanel and John Leguizamo try to outrun the plague along with the rest of the northeastern United States.

We all have reason to fear Mother Earth suddenly turning against its most wasteful inhabitants, and there are already fearsome signs of that in the melting of polar ice caps and the mysterious collapse of bee colonies.

But a calamity of the magnitude of The Happening would result in far greater chaos and terror than Shyamalan can conjure up, and you can bet people wouldn't be fretting about their relationships or shopping for Christmas gifts when they're facing imminent annihilation.

Jerry Seinfeld's animated Bee Movie had more serious science in it. The Happening DVD is available in various DVD formats, but the Blu-ray has a featurette of how Shyamalan did the movie's single cool digital effect, the ill wind that blows no good. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Up the Yangtze
Director: Yung Chang
Rating: NR

THIS AMBITIOUS first feature by Montreal writer/director Yung Chang tells one gargantuan story by way of several small ones. The big story, of course, is the impending drowning of hundreds of square kilometres of Chinese civilization by the Three Gorges Dam on the fabled Yangtze River.

As engineers work to complete the world's biggest dam, ships take international tourists (mostly Americans) on farewell cruises up a river that will soon be unrecognizable.

While the film is almost too subtle — it could use more identification of its subject matter — its overall impact is immense and unforgettable.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bond author a real agent

BOOKS James Bond author Ian Fleming saved the British intelligence service from collapse in the 1940s, it has emerged. Fleming was an officer in the British navy's intelligence department during the Second World War when he advised his bosses not to close down MI6, imdb.com reports. Secret files, released after more than 60 years, reveal Fleming was the navy's liaison officer with MI6, which gave him valuable background knowledge for his Bond books.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

COURTS The former headmistress of talk-show host Oprah Winfrey's South African school is suing the talk-show host for defamation, imdb.com reports.

PEOPLE Alicia Keys has vowed to work with Jack White again, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singers teamed up on Another Way To Die, the theme song for the latest James Bond film Quantum of Solace, which hits theatres Nov. 14.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Warhol film to be resurrected 15 years later

Filmmaker Gus Van Sant is hoping to resurrect a movie about legendary artist Andy Warhol, 15 years after River Phoenix's death forced him to scrap it. Van Sant wanted Phoenix to play the pop art pioneer at a young age. **IMDB.COM**

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Comedy shows spew own political rhetoric

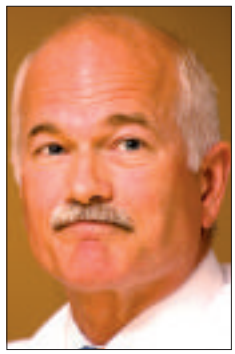
Election 2008

Heads of government who show their disdain for artists, do so at their own peril. On stage this week, election fever engages writers and performers who will have no trouble outdancing the political rhetoric spewing forth as Oct. 14 draws near.

They're young, they're new and they're live as well as digital.

Tonight at 8 p.m. at the Comedy Bar (945 Bloor St. W. at Ossington), the eight NSO comics will stage The News Show: Canadian Election Spectacular. The main event will be a debate with the comics taking the roles of the federal party leaders. Guests will join the regular crew of Brian Crosby, Phil Dubrovsky, Peter Gal, Mike Kiss, Pete Hill, Ian MacIntyre, Alice Moran and Erin Rodgers.

"Everyone wants to wear that Layton moustache," says Ian MacIntyre, who goes by the title of editor-in-chief. "He will say or do anything to get elected. I swear he'll be promising us all jetpacks before this election is through."



NDP Leader Jack Layton

"Everyone wants to wear that Layton moustache ... He will say or do anything to get elected. I swear he'll be promising us all jetpacks before this election is through."
Ian MacIntyre

Admission to The News Show is $7.

Excerpts will later appear on thenewsshowonline.com.

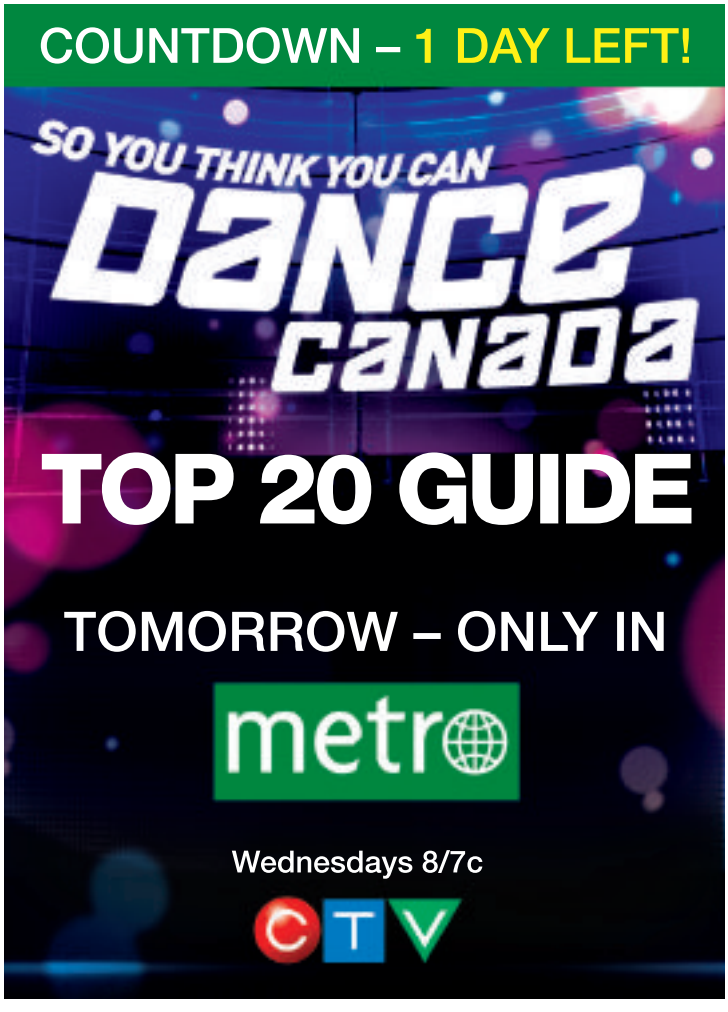
Meanwhile, the election will provide material for the live improv session at Second City after each night's performance of Barack to the Future.

Cast members including Marty Adams, Leslie Seiler, Kerry Griffin and Reid Janisse will impersonate party leaders and perform monologues on election topics.

The show runs tonight through Sunday at 51 Mercer St.

Tickets are $23 and $28.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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FUTURE SHOP

Spielberg quits Paramount to start Bollywood venture
Director Steven Spielberg has formally quit Paramount Pictures and will now launch a new film venture, reportedly to produce 35 movies in the next five years as part of the forthcoming multibillion-dollar deal with India's Reliance Ada Group. **IMDB.COM**

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Coldplay show off their two Q Award prizes yesterday for best album and best act in the world.

Coldplay 'best act in the world' at Q Awards

KUDOS Coldplay have scooped two prizes at the Q Awards ceremony in London yesterday, including best album for Viva La Vida or Death To All Their Friends, BBC News Online reports.

The band, fronted by Chris Martin, also won best act in the world.

Singer Duffy won best breakthrough, while Keane picked up best track for comeback song Spiralling.

The music magazine also honoured veteran artists including Grace Jones, who was named Q idol, and Glen Campbell, winner of the legend award.

Meat Loaf received the classic song award for his epic Bat Out Of Hell, and The Cocteau Twins have been honoured with a prize for inspiration.

Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, meanwhile, was honoured with the outstanding contribution to music award and dedicated it to bandmate Richard Wright, who died last month. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Michael Lohan puts dukes up for charity

Michael Lohan isn't the type to back down from a fight. The estranged father of actress Lindsay Lohan has publicly feuded with the actress, her girlfriend Samantha Ronson and her mother Dina Lohan.

For his next battle, Lohan will use his fists rather than his mouth. He's auctioning off the chance to knock him out in a charity boxing match Nov. 24 at the Hilton Long Island in Melville, N.Y.

Bidding to challenge Lohan begins at $5,000 US. Proceeds will go to charities including the Long Island Community Chest, which provides financial support to needy families.

Jeff Cohen, an organizer for the event, said he expects a big turnout.

"Anybody who jumps into the ring with Michael Lohan will become famous," Cohen said.

"Maybe you'll get one of Lindsay Lohan's exboyfriends who'll try and impress Lindsay by beating up her father. Who knows? ... You might get Samantha Ronson trying to put a bid in there."

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Sunday: the Television Premiere of the film starring Tom Hanks.
HISTORY TELEVISION

Big money for Break-Up reunion?
Actress Jennifer Aniston may reportedly earn $20 million US for a sequel to The Break-Up. Aniston, who starred alongside Vince Vaughn in the film, is reportedly considering starring in the follow up with Vaughn. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

In brief

PEOPLE Matt Damon surprised onlookers at Florida's Escape to Miami Triathlon on Sunday when he turned up to take part in the race, imdb.com reports. The actor joined his stepfather Jay Jones and family friend Barry Hetherington as part of a running team. Damon sprinted 9.97 kilometres in 59 minutes and 54 seconds, and was met at the finish line by his wife Luciana Barroso and newborn daughter Gia.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears to release workout DVDs

PEOPLE Britney Spears is set to release a series of workout DVDs, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer has reportedly been inspired by fitness guru Jane Fonda to don a Lycra leotard and help her fans get in shape.

"Britney wants to put out a series of workout videos," a source says.

"The idea was inspired by Britney's love of dance and how it helped her get back into shape.

"The idea makes perfect sense."
Jive/Zomba Record label representative

"It seems Britney found her mom's old Fonda tapes," the source said, Spears apparently "popped them into an old VCR machine and got a big kick out of watching them."

The 26-year-old singer and actress is yet to confirm her DVD venture, but her record label has fuelled the rumours.

"The idea makes perfect sense, given Britney is a singer who uses dance so much in her act," a J representative says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Actress Charlize Theron

Lawsuit placing Theron in court

Charlize Theron will head to court later this month in a $20-million US lawsuit — all because she allegedly accessorized with some renegade accessories, the New York Daily News reports.

Swiss timekeepers Raymond Weil had claimed the actress allegedly reneged on an endorsement contract specifying that she wear their watches, and only their watches.

Theron tried to fight the claims back in February, but this week a judge ruled that the proceedings must indeed go to trial.

At stake? The "substantial funds" that Raymond Weil wants back, estimated by lawyers to be $20 million.

According to court papers, Theron must appear in Federal Court for the Southern District of New York by the end of October.

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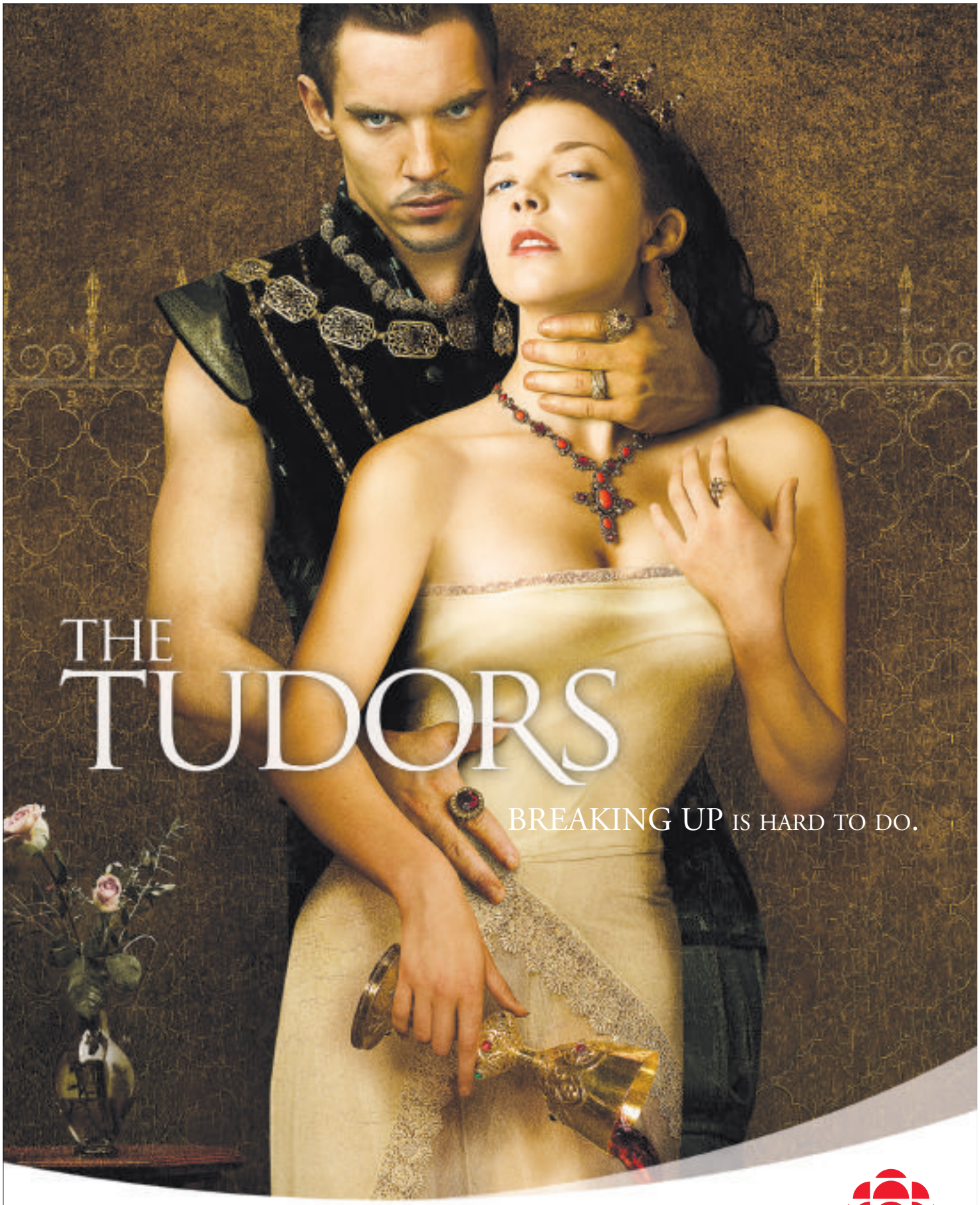

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Douglas to be honoured

Actor Michael Douglas will be presented with the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award at a tribute event in Los Angeles in June. BBC NEWS ONLINE

Miley Cyrus celebrates early sweet 16 at Disney

Miley Cyrus's 16th birthday party was more boisterous than sweet.

Cyrus celebrated her birthday at an over-the-top Disneyland celebration Sunday — even though she doesn't actually turn 16 until Nov. 23. The theme park was closed for the supersized soiree, which included a four-song performance by the teen queen, a fireworks display above Sleeping Beauty Castle and 16 giant inflatable candles.

"Miley is really hard to surprise," her father Billy Ray Cyrus said at the event.

Organizers estimated over 5,000 people attended the special party, which cost $250 a ticket. On the event's purple carpet — that's Cyrus's favourite color — the Hannah Montana star bragged that her parents bought her a new puppy for her birthday.

What else does Cyrus want for her birthday? A new car? Perhaps a later curfew?

"My parents shut down Disneyland for me, so I'm good for a while," Cyrus said.

Cyrus's father opened up for his daughter with a few of his own songs, including Achy Breaky Heart.

His daughter donned a white ruffled skirt and jersey-like vest with Sweet 16 printed on the back for her truncated concert.

At one point, Cyrus boarded a boat in the park's Rivers of America and crooned such tunes as Breakout and G.N.O.

Throughout the evening, several popular attractions remained open to partygoers. Guests also enjoyed receiving a Hannah Montana makeover.

The upcoming Disney Interactive Studios rhythm video game Ultimate Band was also made available to attendees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity guests

- David Archuleta and his entourage skipped the line to ride Space Mountain.
- Other stars in attendance included Steve Carell, Cindy Crawford, Tyra Banks and Jennifer Love Hewitt.

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At Ontario Place, 32 large-scale lanterns are on display. The event runs until Oct. 12, and is open Thurs. and Fri. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. ($20-$25). 955 Lakeshore Blvd. Info: 416-314-9900. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

theatre

AGOKWE Explores unrequited love between teenage boys from reserves. To Oct. 12. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. $20-$29; PWYC Sun. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander. 416-975-8555.

AMAKHOSI, THE KINGS OF AFRICA African legends told through dance, mime and acrobatics. To Oct. 12. Sat., Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Sat. 3 p.m.; Sun. 5 p.m. $20-$70. Downsview Park. 416-952-2222.

CALIFORNIA SUITE Neil Simon comedy set in the Beverly Hills Hotel. To Oct. 11. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. $15-$25. Fairview Public Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall, North York. 416-299-5557.

THE CRACKWALKER The story of a mentally challenged girl in Kingston. To Oct. 11. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2:30 p.m. $15-$20; Tue. PWYC. Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, 16 Ryerson. 416-504-7529.

AN EVENING WITH UNCLE VAL One-man comedy featuring retired fisherman Andy Jones. To Oct. 19. $30-$35. Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson. 416-504-7529.

GHOSTS AND LADDERS Boy conquers his fear of heights. To Oct. 11. Mon.-Thu. 10:15 a.m.; Wed.-Thu. 1 p.m. $15-$20. Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, 165 Front St. E. 416-862-2222.

KING LEAR Titular character struggles with the betrayal of his daughters in Shakespeare's tragedy. To Oct. 18. Wed. 8 p.m. $12/$20. Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House. 416-978-8849.

OFFENSIVE SHADOWS Contemporary sequel to A Midsummer Night's Dream. To Oct. 19. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. Sun. PWYC; $15-$35. Tarragon Theatre Extra Space, 30 Bridgman. 416-531-1827.

WIT Scholar deals with her cancer diagnosis. To Oct. 11. Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. $20. Wed., Thu. 2 for 1; Sun PWYC. Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkley. 416-364-4170.

SCRATCH A girl's mother is dying while she has lice. To Nov. 2. Sat., Tue., Wed. 8 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. $15. Factory Mainspace Theatre, 125 Bathurst. 416-504-9971.

SLEEPING BEAUTY Prince Charming saves the princess from the Fairy Queen. To Oct. 19. 11 a.m., 2 p.m. $13. Solar Stage Children's Theatre, 4950 Yonge St. 416-368-8031.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC A love story set in pre-WWII Austria. To Jan. 11. Tue. & Wed., Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m.; Wed. 1:30 p.m. Sun. 1:30 p.m. $26-$120. Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St. W. 416-416-872-1212.

WILD DOGS An unlikely group forms a community until violence strikes. To Nov. 8. Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 p.m.; Wed. 1:30 p.m. $20-$42; Mon PWYC. Berkley Theatre, Downstairs, 26 Berkley. 416-531-1827.

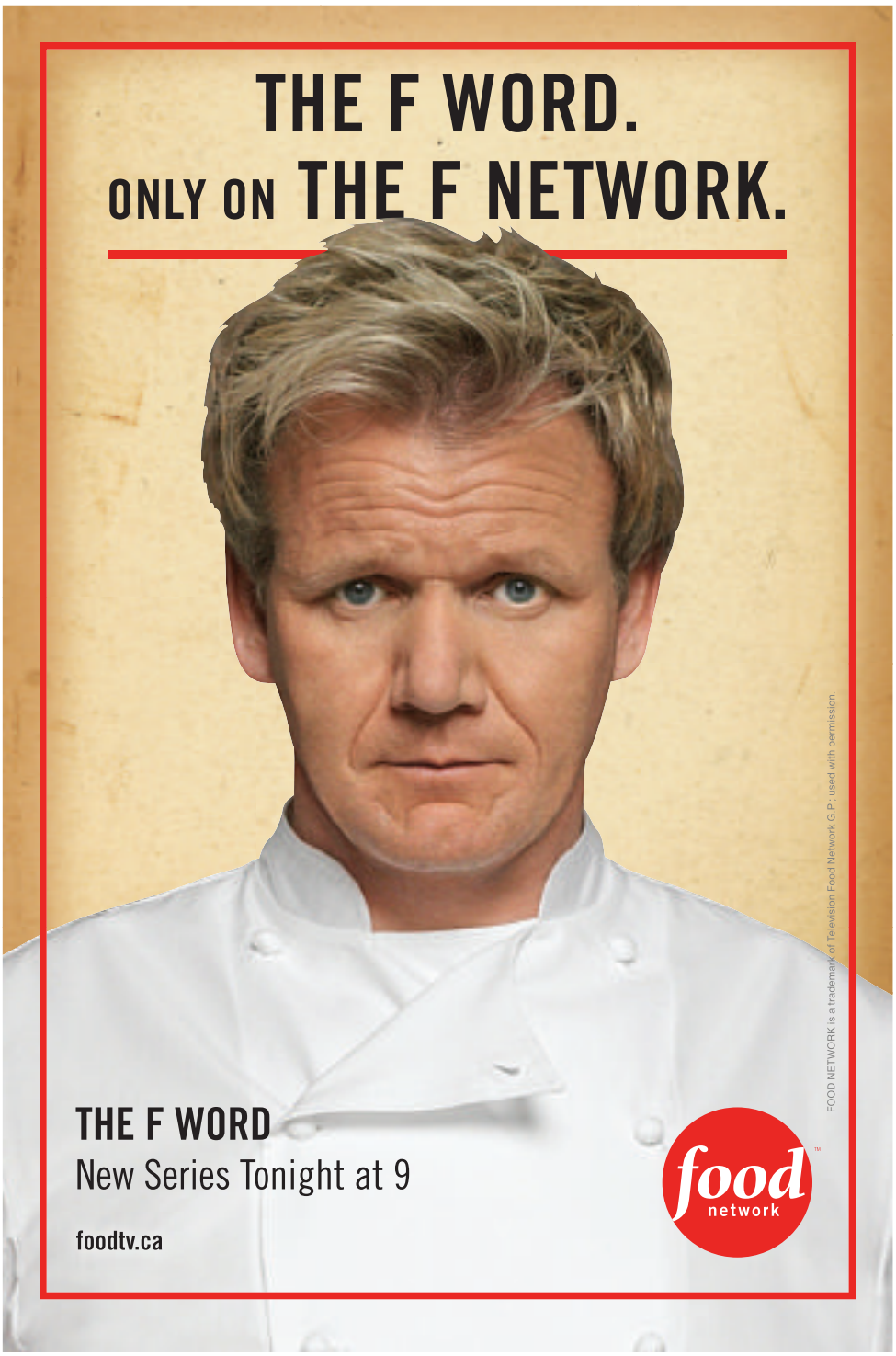
ANNE & GILBERT: THE MUSICAL Based on the sequels to Anne of Green Gables. Oct. 7-9. Tue. & Wed. 8 p.m. $45-$60. Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre, Brampton. 905-874-2800.

BLACK RIDER A stern father sets the terms for his daughter's marriage. Oct. 8-Nov. 16. Preview Wed. 8 p.m. $19. Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman. 416-531-1827.

BOEING BOEING A Parisian architect juggles three airline stewardess fiancees. To Nov. 23. Wed.-Sat. 8:15 p.m.; Wed. & Sun. 12:30 p.m.; Sun. 6:45 p.m. $51-$79.99. Stage West Hotel Theatre, 5400 Dixie, Mississauga. 905-238-0042.

FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES A collection of famous puppet death scenes. Oct. 7-16. Tue. & Wed. 8 p.m. $5-$30. Young Centre, Michael Young Theatre, 55 Mill, bldg 49. 416-866-8666.

FIBBER Explores the relationship between truth we seek and untruth we depend on. To Oct. 18. Tue., Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m. Tue. & Thu. $18-$20; Fri. & Sat. $22-$25. Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen St. W. 416-260-4660.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galleries

69 OLIVE Thinly Veiled: New and vintage works by Deb Wiles. To Oct. 27. 69 Olive. 416-537-9483.

HARBOURFRONT CENTRE Arcade: Science-based works by Panya Clark Espinal, John Dickson, Alex Geddie, more. Dance Dance Revolutions Company: Video installations of people dancing in their basements. I Stand on Guard: Multiculturally-themed photos by Mona Kamal. Personal Space: Lateral architecture by Donald Chong. In 2x6: Drawings by Craft Studio artists. Bye-Bye + Celestial Echoes: Photos by Michelle Sank. I don't ever want this to end: Prints by Genevieve Jodouin. All to Nov 9. 235 Queen's Quay W. 416-973-4000.

PREFIX Projection: A video instalment by French artist Laurent Grasso. To Nov. 22. 401 Richmond St. W., suite 124. 647-430-5888.

STUDIO NINE GALLERY Photos by Andrew Hind. To Nov. 13. 1400 Queen St. E. 416-465-4085.

CONVENIENCE GALLERY Parkdale International Art Fair: Group show. To Oct. 26. 58 Landsdowne. 416-533-8385.

DELEON WHITE GALLERY The Paint of Pleasure: Installation by Sylvana Jaja. To Oct. 25. 1139 College St.

LOOP GALLERY Playing Off the Grid: Paintings by Elizabeth Babyn. Last Garden: Charcoal drawings and reliquary-themed sculptures by Mark Adair. To Oct. 19. 1174 Queen St. W. 416-516-2581.

SIDE SPACE GALLERY Shine: Group exhibit by artists who have been employed at Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre. To Oct 30. 1080 St. Clair Ave. W.

comedy

BARACK TO THE FUTURE Tonight, 8 p.m. Second City, 51 Mercer St., 416-343-0011. Also, free improv at 9:45 p.m.

THE NEWS SHOW Canadian Election Spectacular feat. Brian Crosby, Phil Dubrovsk with Julia Bruce. Tonight, 8 p.m. $5. The Comedy Bar, 945a Bloor St. West.

SAVANNAH ROOM The Incubator, by The Impatient Theatre Company feat. Razortooth. Tonight, 8 p.m., $5.Also presented by The Impatient Theatre Company, Big in Japan, tonight, 9 p.m., $5 and Munchausen, tonight, 10 p.m. Savannah Room, 294 College St.

THE SKETCH COMEDY LOUNGE MC Nick Beaton with The Imponderables & Acquaintances, The Newsdesk with Ron Sparks and Asiansploitation. Tonight, 9 p.m. PWYC. The Rivoli, 332-334 Queen St. W., 416-596-1908.

LOCAL LISTINGS BY:
EYE WEEKLY

Bacon has Booth in his sights

Kevin Bacon is ready to take aim at John Wilkes Booth. The actor is developing a series for Showtime about former U.S. president Abraham Lincoln's assassin. TVGUIDE.COM

Hilton dismisses wedding rumours

PEOPLE Paris Hilton's sister Nicky Hilton has dismissed reports she's to marry her TV producer boyfriend David Katzenberg this winter, imdb.com reports.

The couple has been dating for the past two years, and sources told Star magazine last month that Hilton and Katzenberg were looking to exchange vows in December or January.

"There are no wedding plans," Hilton, who turned 25 on Sunday, told People.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Beautiful People makes for fascinating TV

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

UGLY BEAUTY: One of the side-effects of the multi-channel universe, and the explosion of reality television feeding each other so voraciously, is that we have a wealth of TV on offer every night that appeals to more than just our desire to be diverted and entertained. Let me make this a little clearer: There's an awful lot of stuff out there that you'll watch even if you're probably not enjoying yourself, in the most supine sense of the word.

"It's basically Facebook with a doorman."

Slice's Beautiful People, which debuted last night, and gets repeated all over the network's schedule for the next week, is a fascinating bit of television that will probably irritate, enrage and disgust anyone with a healthy self-image and a world view more profound than that of a spoiled and oversexed college junior. Still, it's hard to stop watching the show, which plays out like the cultural equivalent of a slow-motion train wreck, or a televised execution.

The first episode of the show follows Robert and Greg as they make their way from Los Angeles to Toronto to start the latest branch of Beautiful People, their apparently highly lucrative social networking website. It's basically Facebook with a doorman — a members-only website where good looks are the principal requirement for admission, and applicants are voted in by their prospective peers.

The two men are marvels of oily self-confidence, strutting, self-styled players with indeterminate European accents who would probably be played by the Wills — Farrell and Arnett — in the movie parody.

Robert and Greg are the hosts of Slice's Beautiful People.

They're spoiled and demanding, complaining bitterly about the luxury loft they've been put up in, and walking the streets of Toronto despairing that the city, never mind the country beyond it, has anyone up to the standards of their club.

Once you've allowed Beautiful People to colonize more than 10 minutes of your time, the implications of the show — and Robert and Greg's business — can't help but get under your skin. If you're too uncomfortable with its almost eugenic concept, it's also pretty likely that you probably wouldn't meet its standards. Judging by the applicants up for judgment on the beta website right now, there's a pretty narrow standard of beauty in effect, and some fairly attractive people are getting a big thumbs down from the jury. I have no illusions that I'd pass muster — too old, too fat, too bald, too weird — but I'm grateful that I've reached a tranquil plateau in my life where I don't really care.

With so many shows on prime time these days that look like they've been cast on the Beautiful People principle — The Hills, Gossip Girl, the new 90210 come to mind quickest, though the list is long, probably endless — Beautiful People actually reads like a subtle sort of social criticism masquerading as reality fluff. If nothing else, it's a rude reminder that the pitiless, Darwinian culture of high school has an effective half-life that lingers for at least a couple of decades after you survive the senior prom.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/7/08	265	353	2	TVO	Undersea Exp.	Parks	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		East West 101 (N)		Chinese School (Part 3 of 5)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Ugly" (HDTV PA)		90210 (HDTV) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	The Tudors (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (HDTV)		Privileged (HDTV) (N)		NY-Hollywood	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars		Criminal Minds (N)		Law & Order		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser: Families		Inside Hollywood		Pam: On Loose	Sunset Tan	News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Canada	Villages	*Paris nous appartient* (1961) Betty Schneider, Gianni Esposito.				Carnets d'ex
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Becker	George Lopez	*Ladies Room* ★ (1999, Drama) John Malkovich.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Capitol Offense"		Presidential Debate (Live)				News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Biggest Loser: Families		Presidential Debate (Live)				News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars		Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)			Analysis	News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)		*My Life Without Me* ★★★ (2003, Drama) Sarah Polley.				News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "Ugly" (HDTV PA)		Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)			Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Keeping Up	Nova (N) (DVS)		Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV) (N)		Privileged (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210 (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: Around the World		Canada Votes: Your Turn		Presidential Debate (Live)				National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Presidential Debate (Live)			Anderson Cooper 360	
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		On the Money		Asia Squawk Box		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	(6:30) MLB Baseball Division Series -- Teams TBA. (Live)						MLB Baseball Division Series -- Teams TBA.		
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Interruption	2008 World Series of Poker		2008 World Series of Poker		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman		Angry Planet	Flying Doctor	Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Low Life	SuperCars	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Coleen's Real Women		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked (N)		Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Technical Diff.	Video on Trial	So You Think You Can Dance Canada Top 18.				Degrassi: Next
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	Magnifica Italia	Amor Comprado		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Where You At	Story Of "Motley Crue"		Listed		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Great Big Sea
	616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Shield "Game Face"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		John Allan Cameron		Does Art Matter?: Election		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Wedding SOS	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Tori & Dean: Home		Wedding SOS
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Sub Rosa"		The Real Da Vinci Code		The Real Da Vinci Code		NCIS "Sub Rosa"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Comedy Net	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Before and After* ★★ (1996, Drama) Meryl Streep.				Cheers	Family Guy	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Access	*You Got Served* ★★ (2004, Drama) Marques Houston.				Somebodies	Somebodies	Judge Karen
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Numbers"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Battlestar Galactica		Rabbit Fall	Star Wars	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	Making the Band 4		Paris Hilton's My New BFF (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Bless-Father	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		The Geometry of Love		MythQuest
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		Paris Hilton's My New BFF (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Occupation	Vidéos	Histoires-filles	Caméra café	La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	Élections	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Présidentielles: 2e débat		Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy "Consent"		Killer Next Door		Missing Link Psychic.		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *How She Move* ★★★ (2007, Drama)				*The Brave One* ★★ (2007, Suspense) Jodie Foster.				*Conspiracy*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Ghost Story*	(7:35) *A Lapse of Memory* (1992)			*The Nude Bomb* ★★ (1980, Comedy)			(10:40) *Harry's Case*	

critics' corner

The Real Da Vinci Code
This two-hour British import smartly and systematically debunks the so-called "facts" presented in Dan Brown's best-selling novel "The Da Vinci Code." Host Tony Robinson interviews a number of historians and Bible scholars who set the record straight on Brown's main premise: that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a child together, and the existence of their descendants has been covered up by a secret society. 1 PM on HIS

Presidential Debate
"You're undecided now, so what are you gonna do?" That old song could be the theme of this second debate between Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama. The questions are coming from voters who haven't decided which man is getting their vote for president. Even if you've already made up your mind, tune in and see how your guy stands up to scrutiny. Tom Brokaw moderates the debate, held at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. 9 PM on ABC

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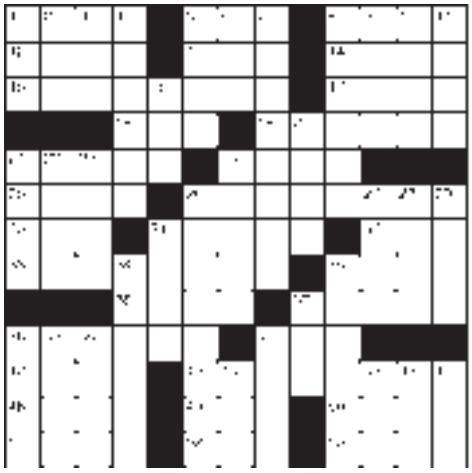


Crossword across

1 Junk in the in-box
5 Stir-fry pan
8 Greet the villain
12 Operatic showstopper
13 Rage
14 Reverberate
15 "Yellow" band
17 Horse of a different color?
18 Scoundrel
19 Cognac, e.g.
21 Lieu
24 Brat's stocking stuffer
25 "— Fiction"
26 Make like a caught possum
30 Recede
31 10 million rupees
32 Sticky stuff
33 Jerry Garcia fan
35 Lion's pride?
36 Feeble
37 Autumnal quaff
38 Dramatist Molnar
41 Swindle
42 Satan's field
43 Winter woe
48 Snitch
49 Mess up
50 Squared away
51 War god
52 Urban scurrier
53 Information

Crossword down

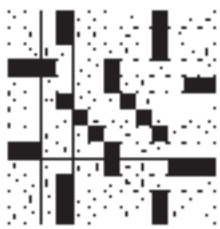
1 Pouch
2 Expert
3 Have 43-Across, maybe
4 Capricious and reckless
5 Untamed
6 Feast-famine link
7 PC requirement
8 Boston news-paper
9 Pic to click
10 Roe provider
11 PlayStation maker
16 Cushion
20 Bygone comic Martha
21 Raced
22 Toothpaste holder
23 Exile isle
24 Mantle
26 Pulpit VIP
27 "Zounds!"
28 Top-notch
29 Active person
31 "Big Brother" host Julie
34 Resides
35 Chopped finely
37 Cape —
38 Greek cheese
39 Always
40 Anger
41 Wagon
44 Historic time
45 Eggs
46 Allow
47 "CSI" evidence

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		4		2		6	
7			3		8			2
	9			6			1	
		7				8		
9	6						7	3
		5				9		
	7			2			3	
6			5		7			4
	1		6		4		2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	4	8	1	3	2	5	9	7
3	9	5	7	6	4	1	2	8
7	1	2	5	8	9	6	4	3
9	8	3	2	5	7	4	6	1
1	2	7	6	4	3	8	5	9
4	5	6	9	1	8	7	3	2
8	3	1	4	2	6	9	7	5
5	7	4	3	9	1	2	8	6
2	6	9	8	7	5	3	1	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Sweet Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 large onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 tsp (5 mL) ground ginger
1 tsp (5 mL) allspice
4 cups (1 L) low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces
1 can (19 oz/540 ml) diced tomatoes
1/2 cup (125 ml) natural peanut or almond butter
1 package (16 oz/450 g) frozen shelled edamame
5 oz (150 g) baby spinach

METHOD:
1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add garlic, onion and bell pepper and cook until lightly browned, 5 minutes. Add ginger and allspice and cook for 1 minute.
2. Stir in broth, sweet potatoes and tomatoes, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until potatoes are just tender, 15 minutes.
3. Place peanut butter in a small bowl. Whisk in about 1 cup (250 ml) of the simmering broth. Return to pan and add edamame and spinach. Cook until edamame is cooked through, 10 minutes.

PER SERVING:
405 calories, 20 g protein, 40 g carbohydrates, 10 g fiber, 20 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 303 mg sodium

SERVES 6

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!
Readers Digest
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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You'll understand irresponsible behaviour after a chat. You'll demand that maturity be shown. Your great work will lead to financial rewards.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Friction with a crook will result from restlessness. A visitor will complain about a commotion. A loved one will soon be in the news.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A reckless simpleton is absent minded. There's an abundance of tension in the air. Be patient with a romantic person.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Others will seek you out for bizarre ideas. Foster optimism about a deeper commitment. Don't be cranky when you lose a game.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
It's important to have a discussion with an old friend. A message will make you reach for the right person. Someone's objection will cause resentment.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Progress is made after guilt wastes everyone's time. Someone is trying to take advantage of you. Don't go against your better judgment.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Others will ask you for advice. You'll surprise yourself. Information about a job will reduce your uneasiness.

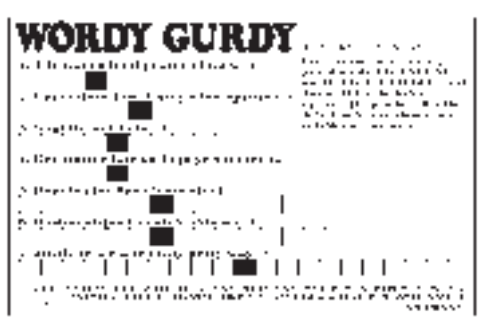
SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Embarrassment results from stubbornness. Keep a steady hand in a new situation. A confining relationship causes a dishonest reaction.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Detours will make you grit your teeth. You'll achieve recognition for your efforts. An admiring friend will create a stronger rapport.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
An absurd puzzle is solved by making a fresh approach. An ailing friend is like putty in your hands. Bite your tongue when someone irritates you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll jump when money comes unexpectedly. Concentrate on forging full-steam-ahead. A difficult person will do something delightful.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A family intervenes to save a relative from doom. A trickster will cause a terrific quarrel. You'll have to amuse a disagreeable person.



This day in history

OCT. 7, 1919: KLM of the Netherlands was founded. It is the oldest airline still operating under its original name.
OCT. 7, 1944: In World War II the uprising at Birkenau concentration camp, Jews burn down crematoria.
OCT. 7, 1982: Cats opens on Broadway and runs for nearly 18 years before closing on September 10, 2000.
OCT. 7, 2001: The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan starts with an air assault and covert operations on the ground.
OCT. 7, 2003: Gray Davis is recalled as Governor of California, three years before the official end of his office term. Film star Arnold Schwarzenegger is elected Governor.

They do!
Former American Idol star LaKisha Jones married financial adviser Larry Davis on Sunday in Los Angeles. Davis proposed to Jones, whom he met through friends, in June. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Lauren denies betraying pal

PEOPLE The Hills star Lauren Conrad is denying reports that she had a fling with Justin Bobby, the on/off boyfriend of her former roommate Audrina Patridge, usmagazine.com reports.

"I'm being accused of being a bad friend, a s--- and a liar all at once. It would actually be funny to me if people weren't taking it seriously," Conrad says. "The worst thing is knowing that a friend, that I've known for years and even shared a home with, thinks that I'm capable of that kind of betrayal. I would never hurt a friend like that!"

PerezHilton.com reported that Patridge learned of the alleged hookup about a week ago, from one of Bobby's friends.

"Once again someone has mysteriously called Perez Hilton and had him post another insane and completely false rumour about me," Conrad blogged on her MySpace page. "What kind of person would enjoy watching blogs and the press tear me apart?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Calista reveals battle in returning to work

PEOPLE Calista Flockhart reportedly fell apart when she gave up her role as a full-time mother to return to acting, imdb.com reports.

After raising son Liam from infancy, the former Ally McBeal star returned to the small screen in 2006 to star in Brothers and Sisters.

"All of a sudden, I wasn't home to pick Liam up from school, and I realized it wasn't really OK, and I wasn't happy, and I was scratching my eyes out," Flockhart tells C Magazine. "I couldn't believe I'd put myself in this situation."

Flockhart was grateful she had boyfriend Harrison Ford to fall back on, as the actor became a full-time dad.

"(I) was very comforted knowing that Harrison was there. He really stepped up and became a stay-at-home dad," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy's guest list veers on lengthy side

MARRIAGE Amy Adams wants a huge wedding, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who recently announced her engagement to Darren Le Gallo, her boyfriend of six years, wants to tie the knot in front of her entire family in a lavish ceremony.

"I'm one of seven kids — it was never going to be a small wedding!" she says.

Adams also revealed she and her aspiring actor fiancé are not competitive when it comes to their careers.

"Darren is not competitive with me at all. He has a wonderful talent and there aren't many people in the world who are like that, where he does not think that my success is his failure," she tells Vanity Fair magazine.

"He just doesn't see it like that, and I don't either. If anything, he's probably a little more protective. He is very protective of other people's ownership of me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jay-Z splashes out on Beyoncé's wedding ring

MARRIAGE Rapper Jay-Z spent $4.3 million US on singer Beyoncé Knowles' wedding ring, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Although the couple married in a secret ceremony in April, Beyoncé had so far refused to show off the band until she was seen on a Miami beach with her younger sister Solange last weekend.

The ring is believed to be from celebrity jewellers Schwartz.

Mohammed Cimark, who runs Precious Gems and Jewels in London, confirmed the huge octagon-cut diamond is a rarity.

"If it is 18 carats then it's a lovely size, an exceptional diamond. It's clearly a premium stone," he says. "You can't recognize the colour from the photo and the clarity is hard to see, but the best clarity is internally flawless."

The jeweller says he believed the stone had been sourced from Africa.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Keira pans unnecessary nudity

MOVIES Keira Knightley has never been shy about showing some skin in a movie, but if you ask her, it was all warranted and boosted the storyline, popeater.com reports.

"I certainly wouldn't do it if I wasn't (comfortable)," Knightley told Glamour magazine. "I detest unnecessary nudity and what it says about women in society. I think you see a lot of films where, Oh, yes, the woman gets her t--- out again and runs around naked for no reason. And you kind of go, 'Ugh, do we have to?' "

One thing Knightley says she won't talk about, however, is her love life.

"I never say anything about who I date or who I don't date, and there I've made one statement and I'm not going to make another one."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Paris plans to have kids soon

FAMILY Paris Hilton has babies on the brain, People.com reports.

"I definitely want three or four (children)," the socialite said in Las Vegas Saturday night, while partying at Pure Nightclub for her sister's birthday.

The youngsters may be arriving sooner rather than later too.

"Soon," Hilton says, with respect to a timeline. "Maybe a year or two."

In the meantime, Hilton is just enjoying domestic life with her boyfriend Benji Madden.

"We just had our seven-month anniversary," she says. "We are just so happy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

I'm not overtly sexy, Victoria says

PEOPLE Victoria Beckham seems to be suffering from low self-esteem after having moved to Los Angeles, saying she feels out of place among the beautiful people and looks "a bit off," orange.co.uk reports her as telling Glamour magazine.

"I know I'm not overtly sexy to men. I'm just not one of those women," the former Spice Girl says.

However, Beckham adds that she deals with her self-doubt by being "very in touch with my spiritual self" and realizing she's "a girl who made the best of herself."

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